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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	June 11	Hankow	July 11
San Francisco	17	Yokohama	10
Hongkong	July 10	Nagasaki	11
Tientsin	11	Foochow	6

Shanghai mail advices of 5th June were received in London on the 9th July.

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The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1897.

SIR THOMAS SUTHERLAND AND HIS SHAREHOLDERS.

EVEN when Sir Thomas Sutherland has not very much to say to the shareholders in the great P. & O. Company at their half-yearly meetings, he says it in a way that commands attention, and that makes his speeches good reading even to those who are not fortunate enough to form a portion of his constituency. He began his speech at the 113th half-yearly meeting of the Company on the 4th ult. by announcing that the Company had just gone through one of the periodical crises which attach to its history, and which resulted this time in the Company's securing £330,000 a year from the British Government for seven years from next year, in return for which it undertakes to carry on the India, China, and Australia mail service during that period; and while the payment it is to receive is reduced by £20,000 a year, the mails are to be accelerated by nearly two days to India, and between four and five days to Australia and China. Sir Thomas pointed out that a contract of this kind for seven years is in the nature of a gamble, for no one

can foretell what the conditions of trade will be during the next seven or eight years. It seems, indeed, almost certain that before that time expires the mails for China at any rate will be carried by the trans-Siberian railroad. "What we do know," said Sir Thomas, "is that the Company must earn about 2½ millions above and beyond the amount which they will be paid by H.M.'s Government in connection with this service. We must obtain that 2½ millions from the ordinary sources of traffic in order to make this contract remunerative. Well, gentlemen, hitherto, happily, our estimates have been fairly adequate not only to ensure a moderate return to the shareholders, but also to ensure that scope for the improvement of the service which I hold to be so eminently desirable in connection with a public undertaking such as we are engaged in." Indeed the shareholders may well be grateful to Sir Thomas for the management which keeps the service always better than the contract, which is constantly improving the fleet, and which yet pays them a steady 7½ per cent.

Sir Thomas then noticed an innovation which is really a return to the system in force before the war of 1870. There is to be a regular weekly communication with Marseilles outward and homeward. Brindisi will still be the Mediterranean mail port for the Eastern services; but passengers will be able to avoid the long sea voyage by Gibraltar and the Bay of Biscay by means of the short railway journey to Marseilles instead of the long railway journey to Brindisi. On the other hand the prospects of Brindisi as a passenger port are to be improved by the putting on the line between Italy and Egypt of two greyhounds, the *Isis* and *Osiris*, which will carry the mails, a limited number of passengers, and no cargo, and will bring Egypt within four days of London. Sir Thomas then pointed out that the general business of the Company had expanded so much that whereas not seventy years ago the Government subsidy was more than a quarter of the total revenue, it was now not more than an eighth. He explained that the employment of lascars in the Company's ships was not from motives of economy, but because the ships could not be run in the tropics manned exclusively with Europeans.

If economy did result from the employment of lascars, which it did not, it was the Government that obtained the advantage. The Company did not obtain the contract through any favouritism. "Gentlemen," said Sir Thomas, "to-day we are able to point backwards to a long record of sixty years' service, carried out sometimes under difficulty, and no doubt accompanied with many imperfections on the part of those who had the handling of it, but still on the whole carried on in such a manner as that all who are concerned may feel some legitimate pride in the enterprise. I would venture to hope that, while the record of the past has been satisfactory, the record of the future may be greater still."

Coming to the business of the last half-year, Sir Thomas was able to say that it had been fairly satisfactory, notwithstanding the losses caused by plague and famine in India. But everywhere in the East and in Australia there had been a great want of homeward cargo, and "what is, perhaps, a more convincing demonstration on this point is that many vessels have actually returned from the Far East in ballast, through the Suez Canal, rather than take the miserable freights which were offered them." The trade of Bombay fell off three millions sterling in the year ended on the 31st of March last. Fortunately, the export trade has kept up well. "The great demand created by the opening of the gold fields of Australia, new railways in India, and great enterprise in Japan, have all contributed to swell the amount of our outward shipments." Of course this cannot last forever. The figures of the passenger traffic, notwithstanding the plague in India and quarantine troubles, were almost abreast of the record figures of 1896. The Company had profited considerably too by the great improvement in Indian exchange, but it was suffering by the great fall in exchange in China. Some good charters to the Government for troop service had been made, and the net result in the mind of Sir Thomas was a fairly cheerful view of the position and prospects of the Company.

The Report was, of course, passed unanimously, as was the resolution proposing the dividends; Mr. Herbert Brooks was elected a director, and then Mr. Jones suggested that the company should establish a branch line from Constantinople to join their Asiatic service. "I am quite sure," said Sir Thomas "that if H.M.'s Government would only give us a contract to settle the Eastern Question, we should settle it very quickly; but so far as volunteering in that direction, my only reply to Mr. Jones must be that at the present time our hands are tolerably full. We have quite enough work cut out for us besides Constantinople." Mr. Evans having asked that a steamer should be put at the disposal of the shareholders to enable them to see the

Jubilee Naval Review, Sir Thomas remarked that this was a little difficult with some four thousand names on the register. They had, however, offered to take their shareholders at eighteen guineas each, and many of them had volunteered to be taken to the Review on these terms. Then a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors was carried unanimously, and without a word of reference to the services of the company's staff afloat or ashore, the meeting ended.

Summary of News.

THE Canadian mail of the 21st of June arrived here on the 11th inst. by the *Empress of Japan*.

THE Coptic arrived here on Saturday with the American mail of the 17th of June.

THE English mail of the 11th of June arrived here on the 12th instant by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Thames*.

A MAIL leaves to-morrow morning for Europe by the M.M. Co.'s steamer *Océanien*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA
DAILY NEWS."

TURKEY TO BE TAKEN IN HAND.

London, 8th July.

A Russian Circular suggests that steps should be taken to expedite peace.

THE LIGHT BLUE VICTORIOUS.

In the Inter-University Cricket match Cambridge beat Oxford by 179 runs.

MENELIK PROPITIATED.

The British Mission to Abyssinia has obtained King Menelik's benevolent neutrality as regards the Anglo-Egyptian operations in the Soudan.

A LIBEL CASE.

London, 9th July.

Mr. Atteridge, correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* in the Dongola campaign, has obtained £1,000 damages from Mr. Knight, the correspondent of the *Times*, for a libel imputing cowardice and the neglect of a sick comrade.

THE U. S. TARIFF.

The U. S. House of Representatives has disagreed with the Senate's amendments to the Tariff. The two Houses are conferring on the subject.

THE AMBASSADORS IN EARNEST.

London, 10th July.

The Austrian Ambassador has presented a note to Tewfik Pasha, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the effect that unless the Porte names a day to discuss the Thessalian frontier as proposed by the Powers, the Ambassadors will request their Governments to adopt energetic measures.

THE RECALOTRANT TURK.

London, 12th July.

The Embassies have presented a Collective Note demanding the cessation of the Porte's obstruction.

The Sultan has telegraphed to the Foreign Sovereigns and to President Faure a fresh appeal to concede the River Peneus as the frontier. President Faure and all the Sovereigns replied to the Sultan advising him to conform to the wishes of the Powers.

A Turkish Circular proposing that Turkey should send reinforcements to Crete has complicated the situation.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE'S PRACTICAL LOYALTY.

At a banquet to the Premiers given at the St. George's Club, Mr. G. J. Goschen, First Lord of the Admiralty, announced that the Hon. Sir J. Gordon Sprigg, Premier of the Cape, had intimated that the Cape Government was prepared to place a first-class ironclad at the disposal of the Empire without conditions regarding local defence.

CRICKET.

The Players beat the Gentlemen at the Oval by eight wickets.

The cricket match between Eton and Harrow resulted in a draw in favour of Harrow.

PIRACY BY ACHINESE.

London, 13th July.

A gang of Achinese on board the British steamer *Pegu* have murdered the captain, Ross, and killed seven and wounded sixteen of the native crew, and fled to the coast of Achene with their booty.

[The *Pegu* is a small local coasting steamer of some 340 tons net, owned by Mr. H. Ross of Penang.—Ed.]

A WELL-EARNED PROMOTION.

Sir H. H. Johnston, H.M.'s Commissioner in Nyassaland, has been appointed Commissioner and Consul-General at Tunis.

A NAVAL FIASCO.

London, 14th July.

The Naval Manœuvres have ended in a fiasco, apparently owing to misconception of the Admiralty's instructions.

THE REPORT OF THE S.A. COMMITTEE.

The report of the South African Committee strongly censures Mr. Rhodes for organising the Raid, for deceiving Lord Rosmead, and for concealing his designs from his co-directors in the Chartered Company.

The Cape Cabinet refrains from suggesting that any proceedings be taken against him, and Mr. Beit, who is also responsible, entirely absolves the Colonial Office from cognisance of the Raid.

NO HOPE FOR MRS. CAREW.

London, 15th July.

The Privy Council has refused the appeal in the Carew poisoning case.

SPREAD-EAGLEISM AT WASHINGTON.

A dispatch from the Hon. John Sherman, U.S. Secretary of State, to

the U.S. Ambassador in London, dated the 10th of May, animadverts with the greatest acerbity on Great Britain's refusal to join the conference of the Powers concerned, with a view to the preservation of seals in Bering Sea, and virtually accuses Great Britain of bad faith. It concludes by casting upon Great Britain the responsibility of causing embarrassment in the relations of the two countries.

THE TURKS IN CRETE.

Sixteen British soldiers have been killed in Candia in a conflict with Bashi Bazouks.

Three hundred British marines have been landed, and the Admirals have sent five men-of-war to repress further movements by the Mahomedans.

THE PROFESSIONALS VICTORIOUS.

The Players beat the Gentlemen at Lord's by 78 runs.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SAD ACCIDENT AT SWATOW.

Hongkong, 11th July.

Mr. Sliman has been drowned while bathing at Swatow, and is to be buried at Hongkong on Tuesday.

(From El Comercio.)

THE PHILIPPINES BUDGET.

Madrid, 25th June,

A Royal decree has been signed ordering the duplication of the present Budget for the fiscal year 1897-98, until a new Budget can be compiled.

RAISING MONEY ON THE PHILIPPINES.

27th June.

It has been decided to issue debentures for account of the Philippines Treasury repayable in forty years, guaranteed by the Customs, at 6 per cent. interest. Issue will be at 92. These debentures will be divided into two series:—Series A will be for twenty-five million dollars, payable in the Peninsula in pesetas, likewise the interest, quarterly. Series B will be for fifteen million dollars, payable in the Philippines in current coin, and interest will be likewise paid quarterly in the same money.

The Banco Hispano Colonial (Spanish Colonial Bank) guarantees to place the debentures up to twenty millions of dollars for a commission of 3 per cent.

SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS.

The law of the 10th inst., which reforms the articles of the Commercial Code now in force, with reference to suspension of payments, has been extended to the Philippines.

(From Saigon Papers.)

THE FRENCH CHAMBER.

Paris, 26th June.

Notwithstanding the strong opposition of the Radicals the Chamber has adopted by 332 votes to 137 the credits for the ceremony of 8th May at Notre Dame on the occasion of the Charity Bazaar disaster.

EXPLOSION ON AN ITALIAN MAN-OF-WAR.

29th June.

An explosion occurred on the Italian cruiser *Bausan* at Suda and five persons were killed.

(From Tongking Papers.)

THE PANAMA ENQUIRY.

Paris, 31st June.

The Chamber has appointed a Commission of Enquiry into the Panama affair.

1st July.

The Panama Commission has elected M. Vallé, President, and has decided to ask for the production of all the papers connected with the prosecutions that have taken place. The Cabinet is considering the request.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO RUSSIA.

30th June.

The Cabinet is asking for a credit for M. Félix Faure's visit to Russia.

1st July.

M. Félix Faure will arrive at St. Petersburg on the 13th of August and remain until the 26th.

THE CALCUTTA RIOTS.

The alleged profanation of a Mosque at Chittpur has caused a riot. Several English police officers have been wounded.

THE Director of Sicawei Observatory reports: Friday, 9th July, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 8th.*—The depression has reached Corea where it seems to dissipate itself. Relatively very high pressures between Japan and the Loochoos. In the evening thunderstormy clouds on the horizon at Shanghai; frequent flashes of lightning. *State on the morning of the 9th.*—The barometer keeps steady and above its average value. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Continuation of hot weather, liable to thunderstorms during the night. Moderate S.E. to S.W. breezes over the N. coast; light and very variable winds in the S. (the observations of Amoy and Foochow).—Saturday, 10th July, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 9th.*—The high pressures linger to the S. of Japan. The depression after its advent at Corea dissipated on the spot. Hot weather at Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 10th.*—The barometer is on the decline. Calm and hot weather. Sunday, 11th July, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 10th.*—A belt of high pressures reaches from Cape St. James to Tokio over the China Sea and the Pacific. Low pressures over Mongolia. Ordinary monsoon along the entire coast. Great heat at Shanghai. During the night distant lightning and thunder in the N.—*State on the morning of the 11th.*—The barometer continues rising to attain the average. The weather becomes overcast and rain sets in about 9.30 a.m. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Hot but variable weather, liable to showers. Moderate S.W. to S.E. monsoon along the entire coast, with local thunderstorms.—Monday, 12th July, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 11th.*—High pressures overhang the Pacific, E. of the Loochoos and along the S. coasts of Japan. Depression over Mongolia and Liaotung; its centre travels eastward. Moderate monsoon everywhere; heavy heat. *State on the morning of the 12th.*—The barometer remains in the neighbourhood of the average; fine and hot weather.—*Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Fine and hot weather. Fresh to strong S.W. to S.E. monsoon along the entire coast.—Tuesday, 13th July, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 12th.*—The maximum of pressure is stationary in the Pacific, E. of the Loochoos. The Mongolian depression advances very slowly eastward. Fine and hot weather; strong monsoon between China and Japan. *State on the morning of the 13th.*—The barometer rises to attain the average. Fine and dry weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Continuation of hot weather, moderate or fresh S.W. to S.E. monsoon, with local thunderstorms, along the entire coast.—Wednesday, 14th July, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 13th.*—Pressure continues very high over the Pacific, E. of Formosa. The northern depression slowly approaches Vladivostock. Fairly fresh monsoon along the entire coast. Fine weather. *State on the morning of the 14th.*—The weather remains fine and the

barometer is slightly above the average. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Continuation of hot and cloudy weather. Fresh to strong monsoon between S.W. and S.E. along the entire coast. Thunderstorms in places.—Thursday, 15th July, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 14th.*—Area of low pressures over Mongolia and the Gulf of Pechili. The high pressures have moved down to Formosa and the China sea. Regular monsoon everywhere. Very hot weather at Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 15th.*—The barometer still above the average, falls slowly. Quiet weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Continuation of hot and fine weather with moderate S.W. to S.E. monsoon along the entire coast.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

1897.				
	Fahr.	Thermometer.	Min.	Max.
				Rainfall in inches.
July 9	77.4	95.4	...	...
" 10	78.0	97.0	...	...
" 11	77.9	95.2	...	...
" 12	79.2	96.0	...	...
" 13	80.7	100.0	...	...
" 14	81.2	101.1	...	...
" 15	81.8	100.1	...	...

1896.				
	Fahr.	Thermometer.	Min.	Max.
				Rainfall in inches.
July 9	67.9	78.9	...	0.28
" 10	69.0	81.0	...	...
" 11	71.2	80.6	...	...
" 12	72.8	73.5	...	0.16
" 13	74.1	81.0	...	0.03
" 14	71.0	82.4	...	...
" 15	72.2	87.8	...	...

THE following telegram was received yesterday from Hongkong by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank here:—"Subject to audit Bank Dividend for half year will probably be 25/- Added to reserve \$5 lacs. Carried forward to next half year about \$3 lacs.

THE duty question on yarn produced at the local mills has been arranged. The duty has to be paid on shipment, and the yarn then goes free and carries an exemption certificate.

WE are informed that one of the directors of the Hooley-Jameson Syndicate left London on Sunday for Shanghai.

AT Peking on the 1st inst. Sir Claude Macdonald gave a dinner to the French Minister, afterwards inviting Mr. Wellby Cook to exhibit the Animatoscope which all present enjoyed, Mr. Linton playing the incidental music. Next evening Mr. Cook gave a public exhibition in the Legation Theatre at which all Peking was present.

THE many friends of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Pearce will be glad to know that a telegram was received here yesterday morning announcing their safe arrival in London.

THERE is general regret here at the news that Mr. H. F. Brady is transferred to Samshiu on the West River, to which new port he goes as Consul. Mr. Hosie goes to Wuchou on the same river. Mr. Pitzipios returns from Chinkiang to Shanghai.

THE French cruiser *Descartes* left on Monday for Chefoo, where she is to take on board M. Gérard, French Minister to Peking, who is on his way home on leave, and convey him to Yokohama.

IT was stated a little while ago that Col. Mosby was dying, having been kicked on the face and head by a horse; but it is now learnt that the gallant Colonel has recovered, with the loss of an eye.

AN old and much-respected resident passed away on Monday morning in the person of Mr. H. J. Jurgens, whose seventy-second birthday occurred on the day before. He had been declining for a long time, and was too weak to encounter

the excessive heat of the last few days. Two of his daughters are married in Shanghai, and their sorrow at his loss has the sympathy of a large number of their and their father's many friends.

A TELEGRAM was received in Shanghai announcing the sudden death in London of Mr. Lorenz Poesnecker, of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. Although the death was so unexpected, the deceased gentlemen had been ailing somewhat since his return from America, the chief trouble appearing to be a cold. Mr. Poesnecker joined the firm of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. about the year 1867, and became a partner in 1880, leaving Hongkong in 1892. Besides having been a director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank he was at one time on the board of several other important concerns in the Colony.

THE flags of the R.S. *Yuenfah* and the Indo-China steamers in port were half-masted on Saturday on the receipt of the sad news of the death by drowning while bathing at Swatow of Mr. D. K. Sliman, the agent there of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. Mr. Sliman had been several years in Jardine's in Hongkong and had just gone up to Swatow on promotion. He was very much liked by all who knew him, and was distinguished as a singer, and his premature death at the age of 28 is very deeply regretted.

DR. MUIRHEAD completes his fiftieth year of service at Shanghai on the 26th of next month, and it is proposed to present him with a memorial of the event, for which subscriptions, limited to \$2, are invited. Although the 26th of August is Dr. Muirhead's Jubilee Day, the public commemoration of the event is to be postponed to the autumn. A Committee has been formed to make the necessary arrangements, consisting of the Rev. G. H. Bondfield, the Rev. Dr. Farnham, Messrs. A. H. Harris (Hon. Sec.), and R. W. Little, the Rev. F. L. Hawks Pott, Mr. J. L. Scott, the Rev. Dr. Stevens, and Mr. C. Thorne. The subscription lists will be found at the principal Banks, Stores, etc.

A TELEGRAM was received on Wednesday stating that the appeal to the Privy Council of the owners of the *Normandie* from the decision in the case against the *Pekin* had been dismissed, and that the judgment of Sir Nicholas Hannen in the Supreme Court had been upheld. It may be recalled that the collision happened on the 3rd of April, 1896, the *Normandie* being a Norwegian steamer, and the *Pekin* owned by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. The collision occurred whilst the former was proceeding down the river on a voyage to Foochow, and the *Pekin* was coming in from Ningpo. The result was that the *Pekin* sustained serious damage, and had to be beached just off the Public Gardens. The suit was heard in the Supreme Court here in May last year, before Sir Nicholas Hannen, and Captain Lendon, of the s.s. *Mirapore*, as nautical assessor, and his Lordship delivered judgment finding the *Normandie* entirely to blame. Mr. J. C. Hanson (Messrs. Dowdall and Hanson) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. W. A. C. Platt (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendants. From the decision the plaintiffs then appealed, with the result already stated. Unless the owners of the *Normandie* accept the judgment of the Privy Council, the owners of the *Pekin* will now have to proceed with their suit against the *Normandie* in Hongkong.

OWING to the intense heat the Annual Lawn Tennis match between the Cricket Club and Country Club, which was to take place on Monday next the 19th inst, has been postponed.

A CORRESPONDENT at a river port complains that he received a letter with a two-cent stamp on it, which weighed over a quarter of an ounce, and less than half an

ounce. The postmaster demanded 4 cents, "short postage;" our correspondent sent 2 cents, thinking that the demand was an error. Again 4 cents were demanded, and our correspondent was told that though there was nothing in the Regulations of the Imperial Post about charging double in case of deficiency, it was the rule in all Postal Union Countries. But should it not be plainly stated in the Regulations?

It is suggested that the Municipal Council should open a register of residents who wish to be cremated in the event of their dying in Shanghai. When the actual time comes it may be impossible for them to express their wishes effectually; so that those who wish to be cremated should notify the Council or their Consul in good time.

THE Sanitary Board are sending round to every householder in the Settlements a Sanitary Notice, printed on pasteboard in English and Chinese, containing a number of recommendations, the observance of which would undoubtedly render the occurrence of disease in an epidemic form almost impossible. Shanghai has been, on the whole, very free in the past from preventable epidemic diseases, but every year it grows larger, and the population becomes more dense, and no precautions should be neglected that will help Shanghai to preserve the immunity it has hitherto generally enjoyed. It is hoped that householders will co-operate with the Sanitary Board by seeing that these notices are fastened up where they can be read by all their servants, and will do everything in their power, in their own as well as the public interest, to have these recommendations carried out.

ON Sunday afternoon a coolie was drowned in a pond, close to the Bubbling Well Road, that has recently been deepened to furnish mud for the raising of a foreigner's ground on which a house is now being built. It is reported that the coolie, not knowing the depth of the pond, went in for a bath and at once got out of his depth and was drowned. On the 21st of last month a native carpenter was drowned in a pond dug out last year, and it was not till the following day that the body was recovered. This pond is very deep and with such steep banks that once in it escape would be rather difficult. The digging of such deep ponds with nearly perpendicular sides is most objectionable, unless they are properly fenced round, and a notice as to the danger of bathing in them conspicuously exhibited. It is only a short time ago that some foreign children were seen playing on the edge of one of these dangerous pools which is some fifteen feet deep. Then at night natives with lights go round such ponds in quest of crabs and fish and may easily be drowned in such pits. Two deaths by drowning within a month and from the same cause certainly should result in immediate steps being taken to prevent further similar accidents.

THE following circular has been courteously sent to us:—

ASIATIC STATION.
Squadron Circular, Number 7.
U.S. Flagship *Olympia*,
Yokohama, Japan, 5th July, 1897.

By authority of the Honourable the Secretary of the Navy, the following values are announced for the quarter ending 30th September, 1897:—
Imperial Japanese Yen, Silver\$0.478
Mexican Dollar 0.482

F. V. MCNAIR,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Commanding U.S. Naval Force on
Asiatic Station.

THE monthly parade of the S.V.C. took place on Tuesday night, and, considering the sultry weather, there was a creditable attendance. Assembling on the Bund at 9 o'clock, the force marched to the Race Course, where a short imaginary attack and

defence were gone through, the men returning and being dismissed on the Bund shortly after 11 o'clock.

A FOREIGNER, named Glen, who was recently employed as bar-tender at Willison's Circus, made a determined attempt to commit suicide in the Tiendong Road on Wednesday. The unfortunate man gashed his throat in a terrible manner with a blunt knife. He was removed to the General Hospital in a precarious state, where last evening he was said to be progressing favourably, but by no means out of danger.

WILLISON'S Circus troupe was to have left for Japan in the *Kobe Maru* on Saturday morning, but owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding all the horses and properties, which had been shipped on board the steamer, were landed on the wharf shortly before the steamer left, so the company perforce remains in Shanghai for the present.

CH'EN Taotai, the acting Customs Taotai of Soochow, has recently issued a proclamation forbidding the people to sell land to foreigners outside the new Settlements.

It is reported that the Hooley-Jameson syndicate have purchased H.E. Sheng's big mill for Tls. 2,200,000, and the small mill of 25,000 spindles has been sold to the English syndicate for Tls. 550,000.

THERE is a report in circulation amongst the local mandarins that the Provincial Treasurer at Nanking is intending to recall Mr. T'o Tso-lun, our present acting Mixed Court magistrate, to Nanking, to take over his substantive post of Police sub-prefect of South Kiangsu, and that Liu Taotai, in view of the change, intends to appoint Mr. Weng, at present a member of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs here, to be the next acting Mixed Court magistrate.

A REPORT comes from Wuhu, the great commercial port of Anhui province, to the effect that the dykes in Wuweichou sub-prefecture, not many miles distant from Wuhu, burst on the 28th ultimo and, in consequence, a large portion of the country is now flooded and the crops ready for the sickle destroyed. The embankments in question were built to keep off the waters of the Yangtze at high tide, and the disaster was caused by the abnormal height of that river.

AN Imperial edict of the 12th instant appoints Hsi Shu-min, Vice-President of the Board of War, to be Chief Literary Chancellor of Chékiang province, to examine licentiate candidates for the *chuién* or degree of provincial graduate (M.A.). Another edict of the 13th instant appoints Tang Chin-ch'ung—a younger brother of the short-lived President of the Formosan Republic of 1895—to act as Vice-President of the Board of War during Hsi Shu-min's absence in Chékiang.

H.I.M. THE Empress-Dowager, who had been staying at her favourite retreat Eho Park for the last three months, returned to her Peking Palace on the 1st instant. The Emperor and the whole Court, dressed in full Court costume, met Her Imperial Majesty at the Western Entrance of the "Forbidden City," and prostrated themselves as the Empress-Dowager's sedan-chair passed into the gates. Her Majesty will stay at Peking for a month and then return to Eho Park until the very hot weather is over.

OWING to the operation of the Imperial decree for the cutting down of the strength of the territorial regiments in the neighbouring province of Chékiang, the Viceroy Pien, of the Min-Ché provinces, has combined the Colonelcies of the cities of Chiahshing (Kashing) and Ch'ap'u (Chapoo) into one Colonelcy, with headquarters at Chiahshing. It is estimated that the process of cutting down will take three years, at least, for Chékiang, as a sudden

reduction, as ordered by edict, might cause a serious rebellion amongst the disbanded soldiery who will number over 40,000 men.

A DISPATCH from Nanking under date of the 4th instant, reports an incendiary fire just outside the city of Kiangyin on the previous evening at a large silk cocoon establishment. The establishment had been in the habit of insuring their cocoons in Shanghai, and at the time of the fire the incendiaries knew well enough that this cocoon establishment, called the Chi Lun Cocoon Hong, had an insurance of Tls. 60,000 on the cocoons the hong had lately bought. Fortunately, however, for the Insurance Company, the cocoons had already been shipped for Shanghai, so that only the godowns were destroyed. The loss in this connection is estimated at between Tls. 5,000 and Tls. 6,000, not insured. The merchants of Kiangyin now intend to petition the authorities to inflict capital punishment for such crimes.

THERE is something wrong somewhere that the steamer *Normand*, which plies between Shanghai and Woosung and carries large numbers of passengers, should be allowed to go to and fro without being provided with a small boat of any kind. A foreign sailor was drowned from her last year, and another fell overboard the other day, but he was luckily a good swimmer; but the *Normand* has no boat to pick up a man who happens to drop overboard.

As noted before in these columns, the *Empress of Japan* created a record on her last passage from Vancouver to Yokohama, performing the voyage in 10 days, 9 hours 4mins., steaming time, an average of 17.18 knots per hour. Her best day's run was 441 knots; an average of over 18.3 knots. Light winds and fine weather prevailed during the greater part of the passage.

THE M.M. str. *Salazie*, with the incoming French mail, left Singapore for Hongkong and Shanghai on Saturday at 6 p.m.

THE U.S.M. str. *City of Peking* arrived at San Francisco on the 8th instant.

THE U.S.M. str. *Doric* arrived at San Francisco on the 11th inst.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of China* left Vancouver on Tuesday morning, and may be expected to reach Yokohama, on Monday, the 26th instant.

THE U.S.M. steamer *Peru* left Hongkong yesterday at noon and is expected to arrive at Woosung on Sunday morning.

THE silk which left here by the U.S.M. steamer *Gaelic* on the 3rd of June arrived at New York on the 6th inst.

THE silk which left Shanghai on the 12th ultimo per R.M.S. *Empress of China* arrived in New York on Friday, the 9th instant.

THE *Tantalus*, from Hongkong, reports: Left Hongkong at 5 a.m. on the 3rd of July, moderate N.E. wind; barometer 29.55 in., falling. Midnight, strong N.E. gale, with heavy rain; barometer 29.30. On 4th July, at 1 a.m., wind hauled east; barometer 29.25. 4 a.m., fresh gale from S.E. with high, confused sea; barometer rising. From thence to port, had strong to moderate S.E. winds, and overcast weather.

THE British steamer *Wilderspool* is reported ashore on the Pootung side of the Woosung Bar.

THE sermon preached by Dr. John Stevens in the Union Church on Independence Day is now published in pamphlet form, and may be had from the care-taker at the Church. A large edition has been prepared and it will be sold at a low price for wide distribution. Several of the numbers of the Union Church Pulpit are now out of print, and we recommend our readers to obtain copies of "Two Nations, One People" at once.

WE have received from Messrs. Fearon, Daniel & Co., Agents of the P.M.S.S. and

O. & O. S.S. Cos. a very well executed map of California and the adjacent States and Territories.

WE have received the June number of that excellent missionary review the *Chung Si Kiao Hwei Pao*, published by the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese.

DIAMOND JUBILEE numbers of home papers are beginning to arrive. We have received those issued by the *Graphic* and the *St. James's Gazette*, both with excellent portraits of the Queen, and with pictures which cannot but pleasurably excite the chords of memory.

WE have received the Diamond Jubilee isues of the *Straits Budget*, and the *Singapore Free Press Weekly Edition*; also a pamphlet of 42 pages, with maps, *Golden Ruby*, issued from the *Straits Times* office, Singapore.

THE genial General Jones, U.S. Consul at Chinkiang, has written a comprehensive report on the Yangtze Valley and with the poet's eye he surveys the future:—"One can picture the Yangtze bearing numberless steam craft of every description laden with valuable products of foreign and native industry, their decks crowded with passengers from the teeming millions of the adjacent provinces; the cities on its banks densely populated, and the people active, happy, and prosperous; foreign machinery and implements developing the unlimited resources of their fields and hills. Railways running north and south through the land will connect, by means of steam ferries, across the river; on the innumerable canals and inland waterways, the steam passenger-boat will supplant the tardy and unsafe sampan; specially constructed fast passenger steamers, running frequently during the day, will carry their human freights; and finally, the American flag will, it is to be hoped, once more be proudly and prominently displayed on this great waterway, from which it should never have withdrawn. This prospect is but a logical result of freeing the Chinese people from their present burden of taxation and opening the whole country to foreign trade."

WE have received the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 10th inst.—We note the marriage, on the 7th inst. of Miss Mary E. Stanley, daughter of the Rev. C. A. Stanley, to Mr. A. F. Gammon of the Imperial Peiyang University.—It is hoped that the repairs to the *Sultan*, lately salvaged by the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., can be executed at Taku.

WE have received Hongkong papers to the 10th inst.—The Hongkong Electric Co. notifies a final call of \$2 a share.—The wife of Admiral Sir R. Vesey Hamilton died in Hampshire on the 4th inst. at the age of 58.—The Philippine prisoners sent to Fernando Po are dying in large numbers with the soldiers who guard them.—The new large twin-screw Messageries steamer *Laos* was to leave Marseilles on her first trip to the Far East on Sunday last.—The Chinese Diamond Jubilee subscriptions in Hongkong reached \$33,529.—Mr. F. S. A. Bourne of the Consular service, who lately had charge of the Blackburn Mission, was to go home, on leave, in the *Ravenna*, which left here on Saturday.—The *Avenir du Tonkin* contemplates Hainan being annexed by France.—An action was heard in the Hongkong Summary Court on the 8th in which E. A. Bischoff sued G. A. Watkins for \$587.50, difference on 250 Punjom shares which the defendant was unable to take up on the 31st of May. Judgment was reserved.—Mr. P. Vincent, who was sent to Hongkong from this for trial, charged with stealing property worth \$12 from the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., and who has been six weeks in custody, was discharged by the police magistrate in Hongkong on the 8th.—Mr. Hume of the Chartered Bank died of typhoid fever.—In the Punjom share case

of Bischoff v. Watkins, the Puisne Judge in Hongkong gave judgment on the 9th for the plaintiff for \$150 and costs, in addition to the \$375 paid into Court.—The Report of Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd., for 1896 shows a net profit for the year of £234 3s. 6d. No dividend is recommended.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 10th says:—From information to hand by yesterday's mail it appears the *Aden* left Colombo on the 1st of June and would be expected to reach Suez about the 17th *idem*, but considering the time of the year her non-arrival on that date would not occasion alarm. On the 21st of June it was decided to send the *Mayo* out in search of her, and she left *Aden* the following day. The steamer *Logician* passed Socotra on the 13th of June and reported on arrival at Suez on the 22nd that there was a wreck on the East side of Socotra, and as nothing had been heard of the *Aden* in the meantime, the *Rohilla* was sent out from Bombay on the following day. Arrivals at Bombay reported a severe cyclone in the locality of Socotra on the 8th and 9th of June.

THE following notes are from the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 9th ult.:

At Singapore on the 2nd July, at the P. & O. Offices, Mr. F. Ritchie, the acting Agent of the P. & O. Company, met a number of master mariners in order to discuss, in connection with the loss of the *Aden*, the lighting of the east end of the Island of Socotra. The views of the meeting will be transmitted to the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, and it is hoped that urgent pressure will be brought to bear upon the Home Government to bring about the adequate lighting of Socotra.

THE Penang Administration Report for last year says that the growing business in Langkat oil (Babalan) has proved, during 1896, prodigiously successful, paying over 100 per cent profit, and leading to the initiation of several important new enterprises. With the present exchanges, and assuming that the flow of oil continues, it is difficult to see how American, Russian, or even Indian oil can compete with Sumatra for the supply of the vast and growing demands of the Far East.

On the night before the *Aden* left Singapore, says the *Free Press*, three officers of the ship, which was lying close to H.M.S. *Pique*, dined and spent the evening on board the latter ship. They were Mr. Carden (1st Officer), Mr. Manning (3rd Officer), and Dr. Lewis, Surgeon of the *Aden*. Mr. Carden was a cousin of Commander Sackville Carden, R.N., H.M.S. *Theseus*, lately engaged in the Benin expedition, and also of Capt. L.P. Carden, R.A., Adjutant Clare Artillery, Southern Division, who will be well remembered both in Singapore and Hongkong as a very popular officer and keen cricketer.

WE have received Korea and Japan papers with dates from Seoul to the 3rd, Tokio the 3rd, Yokohama the 7th, Kobe the 8th, and Nagasaki the 10th inst.—All Seoul Society, of every nationality, attended the fête given by Mr. J. N. Jordan, the British Consul-General, at the capital of Korea on Jubilee Day.—Mr. Consul Willis and the British residents at Chemulpo gave a reception and dance at the British Consulate there on Jubilee Day.—The boys of the English, Russian, and French Government schools at Seoul paraded before the King of Korea on the 22nd ult., and His Majesty was so pleased that he gave every boy two fans and an excellent meal.—A telegram to Tokio says that public opinion in Germany supports Japan's protest against the annexation of Hawaii by the United States.—"Municips" writes to the *Japan Mail* from Shanghai, asking the N.Y.K. to resume the old schedule by which a "tripper" could leave Shanghai on Friday, spend a day at Nagasaki, and be back at Shanghai on Tuesday.—The Mitsui Bishi's shipbuilding yard at Nagasaki is to be

much enlarged.—It is expected that it will cost \$800,000 to carry out the work ordered at the Ashio copper mines to prevent the injury done to the surrounding country.—Some foreigners propose to establish a large iron foundry at Nagoya.—There is a severe drought in parts of Corea, and numbers of people have died.—The *Japan Gazette* learns that H.M.S. *Powerful* will join the British squadron in these waters in time for the usual August regatta.—Mount Morrison in Formosa has been re-named Niitakayama (High Mountain) by the Mikado.—The conspirators recently arrested in Seoul have been acquitted.—The Tea Guild had received a telegram stating that the proposal to place a duty on tea in the States had been thrown out.—It appears that Shintakayama, "New High Mountain," is the new name of Mount Morrison in Formosa.—In the return match, the ladies of Kobe v. H.M.S. *Narcissus*, the ladies made 46, and the sailors 34, and 70 for 8 wickets, the ladies' winning on the first innings.—Mr. Samuel Endicott, who arrived in Japan first in 1869, died at Kobe on the 7th at the age of 48.—Mr. J. R. Morse has presented the King of Corea with half a mile of Decauville Railway and five trucks, and it is being used to carry sand from the main drain in Furniture Street, Seoul, to the King's Palace; it is the first railway in Corea.—The *Japan Gazette* says:—A telegram received by the Foreign Office on the 5th inst. from Mr. Shimamura, Minister Resident at Honolulu, states that there will be no further objection on the part of Hawaii to the immigration of contract labourers.—Telegraph stations are to be established at Unzen and Moji.

The following telegrams are from the *Kobe Chronicle*:—

Tokio, 2nd July.

The reply of the U.S. Government to the protest of Japan against the incorporation of Hawaii is said to be almost identical in import with the Presidential Message to the Senate, only that it is expressed in diplomatic terms.

It is said that the United States Government assures Japan that the interest of other countries in Hawaii will not be ignored, and that the measure has been submitted to the Senate for its careful consideration in order that any course likely to impair friendly relations with other countries may be avoided. The U.S. Government, therefore, had no intention whatever of interfering with the progress of Japan's negotiations with Hawaii.

It is believed the Japanese Government recognises the necessity of presenting a further strong protest at the present moment.

Later.

Count Okuma has forwarded another dispatch to the United States, in which the previous protest is renewed in strong terms.

The gist of the dispatch is said to be as follows:—The Japanese Government, while expressing the full respect necessary from one friendly nation to another, declares that Japan cannot remain silent when she sees measures being taken which are likely to disturb the peace of the Pacific. The Japanese Government is convinced that the independence of Hawaii forms the assurance of such peace, and is prepared to continue its negotiations to the uttermost despite any decision the United States Senate may arrive at.

6th July.

It is reported that the Government has decided, with a view to encouraging the export trade, to abolish export duties on all goods on and after the 1st of April next, whether the new Import Tariff has come into force by that time or not.

The following German Notes are from the *Japan Mail*:—

Prince Hohenlohe, the Imperial Chancellor, Baron Marschall von Bieberstein,

Dr. von Boetticher, and Dr. Miquel were outvoted at a Cabinet meeting which fixed the wording of the bill for the abolition of the most liberal paragraphs of the old law of associations. Since it was certain that the measure would be overwhelmingly defeated in the Reichstag, it was decided not to introduce it there, but to place it before the Prussian Diet, where the Conservatives hold nearly half the seats. It would have required only three or four votes from the National Liberals to give the bill a majority. But these few Liberal votes could not be secured, and so the measure was defeated.

Another telegram sent by the Emperor Wilhelm, has caused considerable excitement in Europe; this time not on the part of the English, but of the Germans themselves. It appears that the Kaiser dispatched a telegraphic message to his brother Prince Heinrich, who is in command of the battleship *König Wilhelm*, expressing his displeasure at being obliged to send such an unimportant ship to the Queen's Jubilee, owing to a set of "unpatriotic fellows" voting against an increase of the German Navy. This telegram was read out to the men on board the *König Wilhelm*, and from thence found its way into the press, where, needless to say, it met with strong comment. Meanwhile, several important journals have raised their voices in defence of the Emperor, declaring the whole story to be untrue.

Rumours were current in Berlin and elsewhere when the last mail left, of an approaching Reichskanzler and Ministerial crisis. The Emperor is said to be so annoyed at the scanty sums voted for the enlargement of the navy—his pet project—that it is feared he will have nothing to do with the reforms of the Military Penal Code, or the Prussian Civil Code, as planned by the Reichstag. In that case it is thought probable that Prince Hohenlohe and other Ministers will tender their resignations.

The *Japan Mail* says:—

The first newspaper prosecution under the new Press Law has been inaugurated, the Public Prosecutor being the accuser, and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, *Tokio Shimbun*, the *Chuo Shimbun* and the *Tokio News Agency*, the defendants. The incriminated matter is a marching song (*Shinko-ka*) supplied by the News Agency and published by the above journals. The song is supposed to be sung by the Liberal Party in grand procession from the Office in Shiba to Ueno Park, and the author is said to be Mr. Komuro—a somewhat vague designation. The song runs thus (translated):—

Ministers without political project or plan,
Grasping only at power and knowing naught
Of the duty they owe to their Country and
their Prince;

The finances in disorder, the national
prestige disgraced;

The achievements of the victor-country
marred and effaced;

The gift of constitutional Government destroyed.

Attack, accuse the Ministers!

Glorying only in personal power and luxury,
Trampling under foot public opinion and
right,

Blundering in every national affair—

They are all the public foes of our people.

Stir yourselves, our partisans!

Assemble, come together one and all!

The flag of liberty waves;

Delay not! Now is the time

To do a deed that shall sound to the
skies.

A pretty tall kind of ditty, it must be
confessed. The foreign public find it silly
and hot-headed, but what the law will say
remains to be seen.

It has been a fashionable thing for a
crowd of Coreans to go and sit for an indefinite
period outside the King's palace
with a memorial which no-one will receive.

The *Seoul Independent* of the 1st inst. has the following editorial note:—

In spite of the repeated edicts forbidding the memorial farce by the hoodlums, they persisted in the practice until last Sunday, when the police and soldiers made short work of them in front of the Palace, by kicking the leader of the gang into the garbage pile, near the alley where the memorialists held their fort with a document wrapped in a red bandanna. At first the leader was very indignant over the unceremonious actions of the soldiers and policemen and scolded them in a dignified tone, but when kicks and slaps came thick and fast the venerable leader followed the example of his coadjutors by running out of the alley in such a hurry that a game of marbles could be played on his long coat tail. We hope that he is the last of the memorialists' tribe.

The following pitiful tale is from the *Seoul Independent* of the 22nd ult:—

So Sangdik of Kangwon province came to Seoul months ago with the intention of getting an official position. He spent many hours at the gates of the influential officials' houses, hoping to get a glimpse of the statesmen who, he thought, would reward him for his faithful attendance at their gates every day in rain or shine. However, these cruel statesmen did not give him much encouragement. On the contrary, their manners towards him became more and more icy when his desire of serving the country was communicated to them. This state of affairs broke the patriotic heart of the citizen from the Eastern province. He concluded to leave this world for a better one where official positions are plentiful and easy to obtain. Last Sunday afternoon he bought a leather strap at a shop inside the East gate and went to a shady nook near the Temple of War where he tied one end of the strap to his neck and fastened the other end to the branch of an old pine tree and in a few minutes swung himself into eternity. Later in the afternoon a patrolling policeman discovered the body and turned it over to the local constable for burial.

In reference to the railway between Seoul and Chemulpo the *Independent* of the 24th ult. says:—

We are informed that the work on the Seoul-Chemulpo railway is being vigorously pushed, and as soon as the final surveying work is finished a thousand more men will be put to work. At present the graders are pushing the surveying party closely, being at work on the Chemulpo side of the pass, and from there to Chemulpo. The small Decauville construction track is laid from the outskirts of Chemulpo to a distance of about five miles from Chemulpo, most of the way now being continuous, with temporary trestles. We hear the Corean coolies are very satisfactory as workmen and are able to take small contracts for grading. They take well to the use of the small construction railway and other foreign tools.

A statement recently appeared in various Japanese papers to the effect that Mr. Morse had disposed of his railway concession to the Japanese Government for \$400,000. Mr. Morse contradicted this statement in a later issue, declaring emphatically that there was no foundation for the report whatever. He has also written to friends in Corea fully denying the charge, and explaining that the money for the construction of the road is subscribed by well-known Americans. Mr. H. Collbran, lately President of the Colorado Midland R. R. has the contract for building the Corean road, and he has publicly stated that it will be standard gauge and fully up to "the well-known workmanship of his road, the Colorado Midland."

We note from the *Times* that Mr. C. T. Bowring of the Customs service was presented at the Levée held at St. James's Palace by the Prince of Wales on behalf of the Queen on the 31st of May.

"TRANSPORT" mentions a report that the Midland Railway Co. has bought the property of the Foundling Hospital, which includes Brunswick Square and other land, in order to build a great central railway station in London. The price to be paid for the estate is said to be £5,000,000, and the Midland Co. has, in addition, to provide a site and a building for the Foundling Hospital in the country.

THE following notes are from the *London and China Express* of the 11th ult.:

The Japanese Government has placed an order for a first-class line of battleship of about 11,000 tons with Messrs. Thomson, of Clyde Bank, Glasgow. She will be practically a duplicate of Her Majesty's ship *Jupiter*.

In the Tea market Whit week has curtailed business, but the undercurrent is favourable for improvement, and when supplies arrive more freely the trade are in a position to replenish stocks. The bonded stock is largely made up of the lower class of tea, and fine tea is in unusually small compass.

The Silver market remained without change in price from the 2nd inst. until the 10th at 27 9-16d., there being sufficient enquiry to absorb the amounts on offer; when, with New York a moderate seller, and an arrival by the West Indian Mail, a relapse to 27½d. took place. At this rate market closes "Sellers." For Mexican dollars, with no business, the nearest quotation is 27½d.

We hear that after very considerable haggling, the Treasury has agreed to provide the necessary sum for a proper summer residence for the British Minister at Peking. This will be in the district of the Western hills, where foreigners are wont to reside in temples during the summer months. Our only comment on the fact is that it is a step which should have been taken very many years ago.

There is a good story going about Prince Alexander, the son of Princess Beatrice, who, at the early age of eleven years, is giving evidence that he will miss his vocation—that he ought, in fact, to become a commercial man, so the correspondent of the *Liverpool Post* says. He received a present of one sovereign from his mother, and, having quickly spent it, applied for a second. He was gently chided for his extravagance, but, unabashed, wrote to his grandmother. The Queen had probably been warned, for she replied in the same strain of remonstrance, whereupon the young Prince responded as under:—Dearest Grandmother, I received your letter, and hope you will not think I was disappointed because you could not send me any money. It was very kind of you to give me good advice. I sold your letter for £4 10s.

To the P. and O., Cunard, White Star Line, and Canadian Pacific Steamship Companies the Admiralty will pay in subsidies this year the sum of £48,600. The ships thus subsidised with the amount of subsidy for each, are as follow:—Cunard Company, *Campania* and *Lucania*, £7,500 each; P. and O. Company, *Australia* and *Himalaya*, £3,375 each, and the *Arctidic* and *Victoria*, £2,438 each; White Star Line, *Tetric* £7,265 and *Majestic* £7,396; while the Canadian Pacific Company will receive the collective sum of £7,313 for the *Empress of India*, *Empress of China*, and *Empress of Japan*. In addition to these, the companies engage to hold the following steamships at the disposition of the Admiralty without further subsidy:—Cunard Company, the *Etruria*, *Umbria*, *Aurania*, and *Servia*; P. and O. Company, *Britannia*, *Oceana*, *Peninsular*, *Oriental*, *Valetta*, *Massilia*, *R-me*, *Carthage*, *Ballaarat*, and *Paramatta*.

I learn (states the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*) that the Foreign Office has made up its mind that the present system of British representation in Shanghai, by which the Chief Judge of the Supreme Consular Court is also

Consul-General, is a failure, and must not be continued after Sir Nicholas Hannen's retirement from the joint offices. The Shanghai community has constantly protested against it as ill-judged and not conducive to British commercial interests, and some of the important Chambers of Commerce at home have joined in the protest. It was introduced, in the first instance, by Sir Philip Currie when he was Under-Secretary, and the scheme of uniting the two offices, heretofore held separately, was designed to save money, an object which in fact was not secured. Sir Nicholas Hannen, it is understood, will shortly retire on a pension, and then the old system of a judge for the judicial duties—which include every treaty port in China, and are both appellate and original—and a wholly independent Consul-General for the consular and diplomatic duties will be revived.

THE United States Inspectors of steam vessels have revoked the license of Capt. James Wilder, who was in command of the str. *Leona* when she took fire (on the 8th of May) off Barnegat, while on the passage from New York for Galveston. The lives of thirteen steerage passengers were lost on that occasion, and, while the Inspectors assert that the fire cannot be attributed to want of care on the part of the officers of the steamship company, yet they censure Capt. Wilder for not keeping a watchman in the steerage, as the law requires. It was shown by the testimony taken at the enquiry that no regular watchman was kept in the steerage, but that "a man went down there, once in a while, and looked around;" also, that the crew had not been drilled for service in case of fire.

THE *Home News* says:—

News from Peking that China has entered into a contract with a Belgian Syndicate for the construction of the Hankow Railway has revived the fears of those who believe that all the plums available for distribution in the Chinese Empire are falling into the hands of the enemies of Britain. A capital of £2,000,000 is to be asked for on account of this railway; but who is to subscribe that amount on the strength of purely Chinese control it is not easy to say, though it is possible to imagine. The arrangement suggests to certain clairvoyant observers that France and Russia are behind the scheme, prepared to take advantage of any failure in the carrying out of engagements to improve the hold they have already acquired over large slices of Chinese territory. It would not be surprising to learn authoritatively that this surmise is correct. The state of things in China, described in an able Consular report sent by Mr. Brennan from Chefoo, and published after long delay, is well-known to the Chinese who have money to invest, and they will assuredly not be willing to support the scheme if it is to be wholly in Chinese hands. Enterprise in the heart of China can never flourish whilst the local authorities may exact what liken dues they please. It is equally certain that foreign capitalists would only subscribe on condition that, in the event of non-fulfilment of the terms of the contract, they would be in a position to exact reparation. Russia and France are notoriously on the alert, but Great Britain has not been wholly idle. The opening of the West River will be a boon of which much more would be heard if it had been secured by foreigners instead of by the British Government.

MESSRS. S. W. ROYSE & CO. write as follows on metals in their circular dated Manchester, the 29th of May:—

A good business has been passing in Pig Iron, shipments from Middlesbrough being good and stocks decreasing, and prices moved strongly upwards during the first three weeks of this month, the total advance secured being nearly 2s. 6d. per ton. During the early part of this week, however,

the market has been upset, the cause being labour troubles, and consumers have in consequence been holding off, and prices have fallen about 1s. per ton; some recovery has, however, since taken place, the tone is now better and prices are again moving upwards. In the Manufactured Iron trade business is fairly good and values well maintained. Copper has advanced about 20s. per ton during this month, and is firm. Tin also has advanced about 25s. per ton and is steady. Spelter has been, and still is slowly easing. Lead has advanced slightly, and is firm.

THE *Bureau Veritas Monthly List*, published on the 1st of June, of wrecks and casualties recorded in April last, announces that 70 sailing vessels were reported as totally lost; 27 by stranding, 5 by collision, 3 by fire; while 6 foundered, 5 were abandoned, 17 were condemned, and 7 were missing. No less than 191 sailing vessels were damaged; 38 by stranding, 56 by collision, 3 by fire, 41 by leaks, and 53 by stress of weather. The steamers totally lost were 14; 3 by stranding, 2 by collision, one by fire; while 3 foundered, and 5 were missing. The steamers damaged were 246; 53 by stranding, 83 by collision, 15 by fire, 3 by leaks, 38 by stress of weather; while 54 reported injury to their engines or boilers.

HERE is another interesting note from the *N. Y. Maritime Register*:—

The steamer *Lincoln*, which is now being built by the New England Shipbuilding Co. at Bath, for the Kennebec Steamboat Co., was nearly ready for launching on the 22nd of May. Her boilers were built by the Bath Iron Works Co. and her engines by Neafie & Levy of Philadelphia. A novel feature in the *Lincoln* will be the application of torpedo boat machinery to a sea-going steamer. Her piston speed will be in the neighbourhood of 800 feet per second, while she will have a rather small wheel. Ship-builders and steam engineers will watch her performance with a great deal of interested curiosity.

THE *N. Y. Maritime Register* says:—

The French shipbuilding returns for the first quarter of the year do not show that the French mercantile marine is progressing greatly by reason of the bounty system. The returns to the shipowner, especially in long voyage business, seem to be profitable enough, yet competition of other people appears to be just strong enough to keep French shipowners out of the trade to any large extent. Another point is that the French do not take to steamship building to the extent that would be expected from the inducements offered.

In the first quarter of 1897, 227 native-built vessels with a total of 23,826 tons gross, and 15,568 tons net, were put upon the French register. Of these 213 were sailing ships and 14 steamers. In addition to these, 25 foreign-built vessels, 17 sail and 8 steamers, were bought for French owners during the three months. Nearly all the sailing ships were small wooden craft, but three of them, all four-masted iron vessels, built at Nantes, La Seyne, and Rouen, averaged nearly 2,300 tons each, while two other three-masted iron sailing ships, each of 1,419 tons, were also built at Rouen. Of the French-built steamers, one was of wood, of 28 tons gross, the other 13 being of iron or steel, and aggregating 4,986 tons gross. The foreign-built steamers included one wooden craft of 75 tons gross, and seven of iron or steel, averaging 1,569 tons each. This is not a very brilliant showing, especially as compared with British shipbuilding returns. Our own returns, after deducting vessels built for inland waters, of course offer no comparison. But the French with all their skill as shipbuilders, and with their desire for maritime supremacy, seem unable to advance in any degree, and they remain almost at a standstill in maritime progress.

Miscellaneous Articles.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT THE TREATY PORTS OF CHINA.

III.

13th July.

THE third section of Mr. Brennan's Report, headed "The Suggestions and Complaints of Merchants," is, as might be expected, a long one, and yet Mr. Brennan begins by saying that he found that British merchants had very few complaints and suggestions to make. He says: "As I have already stated at the beginning of my report, our merchants in China are on the whole satisfied that within the limits prescribed by treaty they are free to pursue their avocations without let or hindrance, and my invitation to make suggestions for the promotion of British trade did not evoke such a response as at the outset I had been looking for. Even the casual observer must be impressed with the idea that there is room for a vast expansion of commerce in China, and, when speaking in general terms, none is more emphatic than the British merchant on this subject, but when asked to define more particularly what share he would wish to take in this development, it becomes evident that the chief ground of his discontent is that the Chinese Government is unprogressive, and bent on restraining the people of the country from developing its resources. In sum, all are convinced that things are not as good as they might be, but few can indicate, except in general terms, the means by which their own particular business can be improved. A long and painful experience of thwarted efforts has had such a discouraging effect on foreigners in China that a condition of stagnation has come to be accepted as in the nature of things."

Mr. Brennan goes on to notice the complaints that were brought to his notice at various ports. At Hongkong he found that the obstacles to trade were the objection of the Canton Government to transit passes, the preferential tariff enjoyed by junks over steamers in the Canton river, and the non-opening of the West River. The transit pass question has been already dealt with; as to the preferential tariff for junks, the British merchant gains where the steamer owner loses; "the Chinese revenue with the connivance of the Peking officials is defrauded, and we are, it can hardly be said hoodwinked, but at any rate trifled with, and the lesson is useful as showing the danger of making any compact with China when there is left any loophole for evasion." The West River is partially opened at last, and the Chinese are doing all they can to place hindrances in the way of trade on it. Mr. Brennan recommends a system of chartered junks to ply between Nanning, the head of navigation for steamers, and Posé in Yunnan, such

as exists between Ichang and Chungking.

At Amoy and Foochow the chief complaint was of the excessive charges on tea, amounting to 50 per cent on the average price. At Foochow, too, it is a grievance that the city of Foochow is treated as being outside the limits of the port.

Next comes Shanghai, and Mr. Brennan gives a summary of the suggestions made to him by the China Association here. He dwells at some length on the suggestion "that while the British Minister at Peking is accredited to the Chinese Government, we should have an Agent apart who, while subordinate to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, should be accredited to the provincial governors." The semi-independence of the provincial governments makes this necessary. The China Association also ask that as the British Minister is so much occupied with political matters, a commercial commissioner should be appointed to further British trade. They draw attention also to the complete ignorance of the governing classes of China of the principles of financial administration. Mr. Brennan, however, fears that nothing would be gained by accrediting an Agent to the provincial governments. "The Shanghai Committee's arguments," he says, "are chiefly based on the assumption that provincial rulers have the welfare of the country, and particularly of their province, at heart, and that domestic improvements which experience has proved to be beneficial to every nation adopting them have for this reason a chance of being adopted in China if properly pressed by a duly accredited superintendent of trade or commercial commissioner. Similarly the Committee seem hopeful that a British commissioner might persuade the provincial authorities to reform their financial system and thereby consolidate the credit of the nation. I fear the Committee are giving provincial rulers credit for virtues they do not possess. Nothing is further from their mind than a wish to reform their financial system. The Chinese official of to-day thrives by defrauding the State, and the more confused is the financial system the greater is his opportunity." Mr. Brennan has had a long and wide experience of the ways of provincial rulers.

The next point treated by Mr. Brennan is the advisability of the separation of the offices of Chief Judge and Consul-General. All the objections which we pointed out in these columns when we first announced that the amalgamation of these offices had been decided on, an amalgamation which would probably not have taken place if Sir John Walsingham had been a little more energetic and a little less procrastinating, have been shown by experience to be well-founded, and if we do not dwell on them again now, it is because there is reason to believe that the Foreign Office at home is at last convinced of

the unwisdom of the amalgamation, and that we may look for a change before very long.

Mr. Brennan doubts whether the right of residence in the interior for purposes of trade would be much availed of, but thinks it would be an advantage if British firms were allowed to establish native agencies in the interior with their name on the signboard. He points out the difficulties that exist in the way of allowing freedom of navigation on inland waters unless the steamers were under the Chinese flag. He admits the advantages that would result from the establishment of a uniform national currency. "If China had a national currency, a merchant who had to pay 22 taels of duty (in the interior) would pay 22 taels and there would be an end of the matter. But this would be to deprive an army of officials of their emoluments." The need for a reform in the Mixed Court and the appointment of a judge of much higher rank, is mentioned. Mr. Brennan quotes the China Association's "Notes on the Shipment of Rice and Grain, etc.," with their scathing allusions to H.E. Sheung, the present Director-General of Railways; and he shows how local famines are utilised to put money into the pockets of the high officials. In dealing with the suggestion that the importation of salt should be allowed Mr. Brennan mentions that salt is a Government monopoly and says:—"Right through there is speculation on a grand scale. It has been estimated by competent persons that if the importation of foreign salt was permitted on payment of an import duty of 100 per cent *ad valorem*, the salt revenue would be doubled, and the consumer would get his salt for about half the present price."

The other subjects touched on in this section are the registration of trade-marks, the liability of Chinese shareholders for unpaid capital, as to which Mr. Brennan is not hopeful that it will be enforced, the delay in issuing drawbacks, etc., and the grievances at Chinkiang arising from the continued maintenance of the obsolete Yangtze Regulations. The appointment to Chinkiang of a Commissioner of Customs anxious to facilitate trade would do much to mitigate these grievances.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Diseases of the skin.—No case of disease of the skin, be its nature what it may, has failed to be benefited when these potent remedies have been properly applied. In scrofulous and scorbutic affections they are especially serviceable. Scoury and eruptions, which had resisted all other modes of treatment and gradually become worse from year to year, have been completely cured by Holloway's cooling Ointment and purifying Pills, which root out the disease from the blood itself and leave the constitution free from every morbid taint. In the nursery Holloway's Ointment should be ever at hand; it will give ease in sprains, contusions, burns, scalds, and infantile eruptions, and may always safely be applied by any ordinary attendant.

IV.

14th July.

THE first sentence of the fourth part of Mr. Brennan's Report, headed "Consequences of the War with Japan," reminds us of the celebrated chapter on Snakes in Iceland; "The war with Japan had scarcely any effect on the trade of China." And Mr. Brennan goes on to say: "Except at the port of Newchwang, which was seized by the Japanese and occupied by them until the close of 1895, trade went on much as before and the custom-house returns for 1894 and 1895 show that quantities and values were not affected." He might have mentioned that this result was largely due to the firmness with which Sir Nicholas Hannen insisted on the mouth of the Yangtze and Shanghai being kept clear of attack. Mr. Brennan adds that there was as little result of good from the war as most of us expected. It has not roused China from the lamentable state of torpor in which she lies contentedly.

In dealing with the consequences to British trade of the treaty of Shimonoseki, Mr. Brennan takes Formosa first. British products will pay higher duties there under Japanese rule, but on the other hand a much larger trade will be done. As regards Formosa tea, it may hereafter go to Japan for transshipment, and this would be a severe blow to our merchants in Amoy. The payment of the war indemnity may very seriously affect our commerce. Mr. Brennan repeats what we have pointed out more than once, that Peking will have to get revenue somewhere to replace the Customs receipts that will now go to the service of the recent loans. The money required can only come from internal taxation, and it will doubtless be forthcoming, "but it has to be remembered that under the corrupt provincial administration only about 30 per cent of the amount exacted on trade is accounted for to the government, and that whatever be the number of millions henceforth required to repay foreign loans, something like three times that burden will be imposed on trade. It may be taken as certain that the constituents of foreign trade will have to pay their share, and that the means now employed to elude treaty restrictions will be used to a still more injurious extent. The necessities of the situation will incite the provincial authorities to follow with greater boldness a course which they have learnt from experience they may adopt with every prospect of impunity." It is interesting to find a British consul thus confirming the convictions that merchants have held for a long time.

In the Commercial Treaty between China and Japan, the text of which, *pace* Mr. Brennan, was published in the *North-China Daily News* and *North-China Herald* of the 6th of November last, makes few changes of importance. Reverting to the Shimonoseki treaty, Mr. Brennan mentions the opening of

four new ports, in which Chungking is included. Chungking, he thinks, will do little good until steamers run there; he describes the chartered junk system, and urges the introduction of steam launches in the harbour of Chungking. He shows the importance of Shasi as a transshipping point, but does not think that it will become an outlet for foreign products. Mr. Brennan repeats what has been said already of Soochow and Hangchow; the former is too near Shanghai ever to become an important centre of foreign trade; the latter may become the entrepôt for central Chékiang, as all merchandise destined for that section of the country must pass through Hangchow, "but the general effect of the opening of these two ports will be a shifting of the scene of operations rather than an increase of business." As to exports, silk will not be affected by the opening of these two ports; the Fyehow green teas will probably reach Shanghai in future through Hangchow instead of through Ningpo.

The Chinese Government, says Mr. Brennan, always considers the opening of new ports as a concession to foreigners, but experience shows that the opening of a new port is a greater boon to the native than to the foreign merchant. It means, at any rate, "giving to native merchants at that port the blessings of a fixed tariff and an honest Customs administration." These are blessings quite as much appreciated by Chinese as by foreigners. Mr. Brennan goes on to dwell on the value of the article which gives to foreigners permission to engage in all kinds of manufacturing industries at all the open ports of China. We need not discuss what he writes about the prospects of Cotton Mills here, because questions which were unsettled when he wrote this Report have now been settled; but we may conclude this morning with the following paragraph on the importance of taking into consideration the price of copper as well as the prices of silver and gold, which it is a pity that Mr. George Jamieson did not read before he made his recent address to the Bimetallic League:—

"Much has been written to prove that the fall in the gold price of silver must tend to encourage manufactures in silver using countries, for whereas, it is argued, the purchasing power of silver in China being the same as before, wages and the prices of raw material are unchanged, on the other hand, the laying down cost of the products of gold using countries increases *pari passu* with the increasing ratio between gold and silver. This argument is based on the assumption that silver is the money of China, but it has been overlooked that copper much more than silver is the currency of China, and that the relative value of gold and copper is an important factor in any calculation of this sort. The tillers of the soil, the workers in mines and factories, are all paid in copper cash,

and they insist on receiving their honest wage in this medium regardless of the exchange between silver and copper coin. Their daily food and other wants have to be paid for in copper cash, and the price of labour and of raw material must be measured in copper. If it now costs one tael of silver to turn out 1,200 cash, when formerly 1 tael would buy 1,500 cash, it is not that the copper cash can now purchase more labour, but that silver can purchase less. Whether Shanghai can compete with Manchester depends as much on copper as on silver."

V.

15th July.

MR. BRENNAN begins the concluding section of his Report, which is headed "What may be done to Promote Trade," by explaining that there is nothing selfish in the efforts of British communities and their Government to extend the commerce of Great Britain in China. "To ask what step can be taken to promote British trade in China is almost the same thing as asking what step can be taken to improve the condition of the people, for China's capacity for buying progresses with the development of her material resources, and this development is at present struggling against every obstacle that bad government can put in the way. The measures which we can of ourselves take to effect an improvement are confined within narrow limits, and I can but indicate certain directions in which something may be done with the prospect of beneficial results."

There is nothing very hopeful in Mr. Brennan's indications. He shows that, whatever it may become, China is at present a country of very poor people; and they are kept in their poverty by "the utter selfishness and corruption of the ruling classes. . . . Meantime all progress is arrested, and in our tolerant mood we allow our grievances to go unredressed, and we fail to turn to account the opportunities placed in our way by the commission of Chinese official misdeeds." Trade disputes naturally originate in the provinces; if a complaint against a provincial official is referred to the capital, Peking will back him up as a rule, and if the British Minister succeeds in getting orders sent from Peking to a provincial Governor, for instance, the odds are that the latter will take as little notice of them as possible; it is even hinted that a private note telling him to take no notice sometimes accompanies the official dispatch. Again, the British Minister can deal only with the 'Tsung-li Yamén, which has no direct authority over the provincial officials, though in urgent matters it may obtain an Imperial Decree, which has to be attended to.

Foreign Powers may possibly use China's financial straits as a lever to enforce reforms. Suppose the Powers to agree to China's doubling her tariff; she might possibly get in Tls. 7,000,000 a year more than now. "Probably in

not more than three or four of her best provinces the money now collected under the name of *likin* and embezzled by office-holders amounts to this sum." The domestic trade of China is strangled by inland taxation; and Mr. Brennan shows how the deposit of 15 per cent *ad valorem* at Chinkiang, for which pseudo-transit passes for produce from the interior are legitimatised at Chinkiang, proves that the inland taxes from the interior to that port must mount up to a higher percentage than that. "It would be an interesting experiment for some-one to start in any direction with a quantity of merchandise, selling, as it became necessary, a portion to pay the taxes imposed *en route*. Like water poured in sandy soil, it would all be absorbed before going far." What should be done is to have the *likin* tariff and the stations where it is to be collected definitely fixed, and the collection entrusted to a foreign administration like the Foreign Customs; but it is doubtful whether anything but a revolution could make the provincial authorities agree to this. But, "as long as provincial governments retain the power of opening new tax stations, and placing them in the hands of corrupt officials, our goods will never be safe. Whatever promises the Chinese government may now make, there is no reason for believing that it has the will or the power to abide by its new engagements more faithfully than by the old. Any talk about refunding illegal imposts is vain; before restitution can be demanded there must be proof, and proof will never be forthcoming, for no Chinese will venture to bear witness against his own officials."

Some space is taken up in this concluding section of Mr. Brennan's Report by an exposition of the advantages British trade would derive from the appointment to the Consular Service of a specially commissioned officer to attend to commercial questions, for the required attention to which few Consuls, with their multifarious duties which extraterritoriality does so much to increase, have the time if they have the knowledge. Mr. Brennan shows clearly how much such an official could do for the merchant, while his advice would be of great value also to the Minister. He goes on to consider what merchants and manufacturers can do to help themselves. "We have not yet bought from the Chinaman all that we can profitably buy, nor sold to him all that we can profitably sell, but the what and the where are discoveries that we must make ourselves." There are four leading questions, according to Mr. Brennan:—

1.—What does China want that we can supply?

2.—What do we make that China would buy if she saw it?

3.—What does China produce that we can use?

4.—How can we see and procure it?

The foreign merchant, says Mr. Brennan, has no inducement to incur

the expense and trouble of collecting the information required to answer these questions; and here, we think, Mr. Brennan might have said something about the enterprise the German merchants in Shanghai have shown in this direction. There are openings in the interior even now that have not been taken advantage of; and Mr. Brennan alludes to the wide knowledge of the interior possessed by the missionaries, whom Mr. Chris. Gardner, as we saw not long ago, proposes to utilise as commercial travellers. The stagnation of ideas in the Chinamen themselves is a great obstacle to the advance of trade, but something has been done by the establishment of sample rooms in Shanghai, a step that should be followed in other ports.

A co-operative association of manufacturers is recommended by Mr. Brennan, and it should send out qualified men to travel in the interior with samples which should be freely given away or sold at a sacrifice, and intimate relations should be kept up with the missionaries. Our manufacturers, too, should imitate the Germans in being more accommodating in their methods, and in every mercantile house there should be a Chinese-speaking clerk or partner. Mr. Brennan concludes with some suggestions made to him by a practical merchant, who has had much experience in 'pushing business.'

As regards Mr. Brennan's report as a whole, we cannot say that it is of very much value, and indeed this was only to be expected, to merchants in China, nor does it contain much that is new for the guidance of manufacturers and shippers at home. It may be indirectly valuable to us all if it impresses on the Foreign Office the absolute worthlessness of Chinese official promises, whether made by the Tsungli Yamen at Peking, or by Sir Halliday Macartney in London; and it is a permanent tribute to the good work done by the Shanghai branch of the China Association, to which Mr. Brennan is confessedly largely indebted for information and suggestions.

THE TOWN BAND AND THE PUBLIC.

16th July.

WE hear, and we trust that the report is true, that the Municipal Council or the Band Committee are seriously considering another modification of the present arrangement of the performances of the Town Band. The present arrangement is that the Band gives every week two performances in the evening and one in the afternoon in the Public Garden, one in the evening and one in the afternoon on the Recreation Ground, and one in the evening at the French Consulate-General. Without going into the much-disputed question as to whether the Band should play at all out of the settlements, except on payment, it may be urged that the Public Garden is the proper place for it.

It is in the centre of the Settlements north of the Yangkingpang and, with the river on one side of it, is the coolest spot to be found here in the summer; it is provided with a proper band-stand, and with plenty of seats for the public, and the band every time it plays there gives enjoyment to several hundreds of people. When it plays on the Recreation Ground, those listening to it are counted by tens, not hundreds; there is no proper band-stand, so that half the music is lost, and there is a very scanty provision of seats; while at the afternoon performance the children and the ladies who are with them are banished to the far side of the Recreation Club's enclosure, where they can hardly hear the music at all. The dwellers in the suburbs, for whom the Band now plays twice a week, are nearly all provided with carriages and can easily come in to the Public Garden; but of those who ordinarily go to the Public Garden, probably not one-fourth have carriages to take them out to the Recreation Ground. Last year's schedule, under which the Band played three times a week in the evening and twice in the afternoon in the Public Garden, and once in the evening at the French Consulate-General, gave general satisfaction, and we trust that the Band Committee will revert to it.

DISPELLED ILLUSIONS.

16th June.

IT has been the common-place of philosophers of all ages that life is largely composed of illusions that have been dispelled, only to be followed by others on which the process is repeated. There is a satisfactory explanation of this fact in the complexity of terrestrial affairs, the limitations of human judgment, and the presence of that hope which, despite of millions of disappointments, still continues to "spring eternal in the human breast." It seems but a few weeks ago that we used to be reprinting articles from the *Spectator*, which at that time knew all that was knowable about China and the Far East, showing how rapidly China had leaped to the front as "a naval power." When our friends at home asked us if this could be true, we modestly replied that we feared it was even so. And then came the Yalu river, and Weihaiwei. The "naval power" illusion was succeeded by the "blessing in disguise" theory about the remoter effects of the war. It was going to awaken China; there was to be Reform and all that. What expectations were encouraged among old ladies at home about the English that the Emperor was learning! An old Empire and a new vital speech of the ruling race, and so forth. We none of us write home on that subject now. Then there was to be the march of improvement in material lines. China had at all events learned well that lesson of humiliation. Her moral code she still ignorantly clings to as the acme of human

attainment; but railways? Ah, yes, railways. That is it—railways. Well, peace has been declared for more than two years and we already have an addition to the railway system of the empire of more than eighty miles in one direction, and as much more perhaps in another. To Peking by rail! How inspiring the possibilities: how inane the performance! And then there is our friend Shêng T'ai-tai, and his "Great Western." Does any one wish to bid hard cash on that illusion? Apparently they do, but apparently there is an illusive hitch, and the only thing which we can foresee with definite certainty is that nothing whatever can with certainty be foreseen, albeit some sort of a route will no doubt be evolved. Cloud combinations and a few drops of rain, followed by another drought. Nearly forty years of impact of the Occidental with the Chinese civilisation near, and in, the capital of the empire had thawed prejudice, removed obstructions, and made impossible the crude barbarities of more than twenty-five years ago. Have these things done this? We have recently seen the commercial metropolis of the North and Peking itself aflame with the very fires out of which the original Tientsin Massacre was compiled. Idle rumours are the flint which strikes the permanent tinder, and the explosion follows the spark. Did we expect this?

But illusions are by no means confined to China nor to the Far East. There is a *Zeitgeist*, a Spirit of the Age, and we know the Sisyphean labours with which he has been saddled. War could not, of course, be prevented, but it could be controlled to some extent, and "unjust wars"—yes, we are quite sure this was the very phrase—were to be stopped. The weak Liberals were succeeded two years ago by the strong-policed Unionists, and what have we not seen? The most tremendous dispelling of illusions of the whole century—if not of any century. Turkey reigns through her debts and her capacity to prevent union, she sits upon her throne of interlocked bayonets as sole mistress of the situation, calling to the "Powers," in the metrical phrase of Mr. Baring-Gould, "Onward, Christian Soldiers!" But whatever might be the case in other departments of the human race, our Anglo-Saxon branch of it was too "advanced" to repeat the follies of the past. A growing together, cementing, and the like. "Union of hearts," common heritage in literature, etc. No fratricidal "imbruing" any more. Then Venezuela and the rest of it. Jingoism ruling: an "American idea," which no one had ever quite defined was put to the front, and might have "imbrued" the hands of brothers—but it didn't. Then arbitration, aspirations of mankind, a glorious close to a glorious century; fit distinction for a Record Reign. Great enthusiasm of humanity and vast jealousy of the "effete oligarchies of Europe," not the smallest occasion, however. Six-penny Senate in Washington more jealous

than the "oligarchies" does the killing for them. "Arbitration" reduced to a solemn affirmation that when it rains either party can go inside if his family will let him! War no longer a thing of which we are in danger of being deprived. Taxes and armaments can still be revived and added to *ad libitum*. Grief among the wise, and keen rejoicing in the under-world of evil spirits. But we will not tease our readers by additional instances. Before these lines can get into type, there will be several more available, and so on, down *ad infinitum*. And what do they all mean? That all mankind are going to what the late Mr. Carlyle euphemistically termed "the everlasting mud-gods?" Nothing of the sort. This is in reality a charcoal sketch of the world's progress; there are no straight lines either in nature or in history, though the former has many curves which are by no means lines of beauty. It takes time to work out the salvation of the world in any direction and well is it for us that in the long run time is what there is the most of.

"The world is wide in time and tide
And God is guide—then do not
hurry."

Review.

THE FRENCH MAIL PAPERS.

(FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 4TH OF JUNE.)

THE correspondent of the *Times* at Peking has kept that paper well-informed of the progress of H.E. Shêng's negotiations with the Belgian Syndicate, but up to the latest date received it did not seem to be understood how much the benefits that the syndicate is to get in return for the loan had been whittled down. In a leading article on the arrangement in its issue of the 3rd ult. the *Times* says:—

On the other hand, it must be remembered that both parties are anxious to carry out the scheme. Its success would be extremely gratifying to Shêng, whose position is perhaps not so unassailable as might be supposed from the wide range of his activities. As for the Belgian syndicate we may assume it to have a strong family likeness to other syndicates with which we are acquainted. It will not be anxious to dwell upon the dubious character of the security offered by the Chinese, while Shêng will doubtless abound in assurances that all is well. It will rely mainly on certain powerful agencies behind it. It is nominally Belgian because the Chinese have a prejudice in favour of dealing with weak States rather than with strong ones, who have an unpleasant way of insisting upon the fulfilment of engagements. It is believed that the French Government is interested in the success of the syndicate for reasons that take but little account of financial questions, and in the Far East at any rate France can still rely implicitly upon the support of Russia. From a political point of view engagements which the Chinese Government might fail to observe, or even an expenditure of capital which only further concessions could render productive, might be found quite as useful as the most brilliant commercial success of the Chinese railways. That Russia is not uninterested in the project may be inferred both from the co-operation of the Russo-Chinese Bank in Peking, which is to have the account of the new railway, and from the visit of Prince Oukhtomsky, whose two interviews with the Emperor of China just before the final granting of the concession point to something more than a mere coincidence. With these two

Powers actively interesting themselves in the Belgian syndicate it would be extremely rash to assume that the railway will not be begun, notwithstanding its lack of attraction either for European or for Chinese capitalists. Whether it is finished or not within any reasonable period might be a matter of secondary importance if partial construction afforded occasion and excuse for diplomatic interference of an exclusive kind.

The scheme of the syndicate has not been allowed to pass without protest. The British, the American, and the German Ministers have called attention to those portions of the projected arrangement which infringe the principle of the most-favoured-nation treatment, and it may be assumed that their complaints have brought about formal correctness in the terms of the concession. It is, however, scarcely necessary to observe that more than this is required to safeguard the interests of nations not directly concerned in the present negotiations. This country throws open its colonies and its trading rights to all the world on the same terms as to its own subjects. But we are often hardly careful enough to watch over the observance of our treaty rights in cases such as the present. It has to be remembered that the policy steadfastly pursued both by France and Russia is one of rigorous protection for their own goods. They take all the advantages of our free trade policy, but they never dream of giving any in return, and, as Lord Salisbury has observed upon more than one occasion, we cannot hope to alter their policy until we have something to offer or to threaten in exchange. It is, therefore, by no sentimental jealousy of other people's success that this country is impelled to watch closely the detailed operations of a syndicate such as is now in question, but by the knowledge that direct injury to our trade, inflicted in every possible way, is the normal result of every exclusive or preferential trading right acquired by our commercial rivals. Should this Belgian syndicate achieve any success it will scarcely be on the financial merits of its scheme, but in consequence of a free exercise of political influence for political and commercial ends. It therefore behoves our Foreign Office to keep a watchful eye upon the syndicate and the development of its plans in detail.

Turning back from the Far East to the East, we find the papers still full of the negotiations between Turkey and the Powers; and seeing that six weeks ago the Ambassadors were trying to get an answer from the Sultan about Thessaly, we can quite understand the impatience which, as Reuter tells us, they are now showing. In a leading article on the 31st of May the *Times* writes:—

After an abundant crop of contradictory rumours we are in a position to-day to see what has actually been done in the way of starting the peace negotiations which are in the fulness of time to put an end to the present disturbance in the East. On Thursday the Ambassadors received a reply to the Collective Note addressed by them to the Porte, which, as was to be anticipated, does not amount to much more than a moderately polite acknowledgment of their communication. The Porte is, of course, perfectly ready to accede to their demands, but points out that negotiations cannot be formally begun until a proper armistice has been concluded in place of the mere cessation of hostilities, which is the only arrangement now in force. To this the Ambassadors replied on Saturday that if an armistice had not been concluded the fault lies entirely with Edhem Pasha, who has insisted upon political conditions instead of confining himself to a purely military attitude. They accordingly call upon the Porte to instruct him to carry on negotiations upon military grounds alone, and undertake that there shall in that case be no obstruction on the part of the Greek commander. The desired armistice is to be one of unlimited duration, and the Porte is pressed to conclude it without delay in order that peace negotiations may at once begin in earnest. It would be too much to expect the Sultan to yield to these demands without some preliminary evasions and delays, yet he must be conscious that the tone of the Ambassadors is perceptibly hardening. We are not informed how

Edhem Pasha has imported political considerations into what is essentially a military matter, but we know that he is not allowed to act on his own initiative and that any difficulties he may throw in the way are suggested to him from Constantinople. In all the circumstances it hardly seems wise on the part of the Sultan to forfeit any good will that may exist among the Powers by procrastinating upon points which can bring him no real advantage. He may desire to punish Greece as much as possible by delaying by every means at his command a settlement which, as he knows, must involve the evacuation of Thessaly. But that province has already suffered severely by the war, the harvest for this year is practically lost, thousands of the inhabitants have fled from their homes, and prolonged occupation means the hopeless impoverishment of the country. It may be agreeable to inflict this damage upon Greece, but the Sultan might remember that the payment of a war indemnity is that one of his claims upon which the Powers look most favourably in principle, that it will in any case be a difficult matter to get the money, and that he is providing the Greeks with the best possible excuse for non-payment.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* writes on the 4th of June:—

In well-informed circles here it is considered that the Turco-Greek incident has now lost its acute character and that a return to normal times may be looked forward to. The Ambassadors in Constantinople may have a little trouble in coming to an understanding with the Porte, but at the worst this can only cause delay. A break-down of the negotiations is not apprehended. The Sultan has presumably already realised that, the Powers being unanimous as to the necessity of the Turkish troops evacuating Thessaly, there is no alternative but eventually to retire, save, of course, from such strategic points on the frontier as Europe may be willing to transfer to Turkey. In all probability, the Ambassadors have formal instructions to make no concession whatever in this respect. Turkey does not by any means occupy the usual position of the victor in presence of the vanquished. The late war was the consequence of the Cretan crisis, and, whatever the sins of the Greeks may have been, the misdeeds of the Turks were its original cause. The contention that Turkey redeemed something of her past offences by carrying on hostilities in accordance with civilised principles is not altogether unjustified, but she has yet established no further claim to the indulgence of the Powers, and none of them is desirous to see one inch of the Sultan's lost territory restored to its former ruler. The other conditions of peace, concerning which there never was any considerable difference of opinion amongst the Powers, are fortunately not numerous. As I remarked yesterday, it is only the war indemnity that is at all likely to give rise to any importance divergence of views.

Signs are not wanting that both Turks and Greeks are getting weary of the present state of affairs, and certainly the Powers themselves will be glad to see the end of it. The Bourse has scarcely been affected one way or the other by the news recently received from Constantinople and Athens, while the public in these parts reads the daily bulletin of Eastern intelligence with flagging interest.

Reference was made last week to the letter of the Czar to the Sultan which at once decided the latter to agree to an armistice. The official text of that letter is now published; it was sent by wire to the Sultan from Tsarskoe Selo on the 17th of May:—

"Your Imperial Majesty will not be surprised if the relations of sincere friendship and the neighbourly feeling existing between us induce me to appeal to your noblest sentiments and inspire me with the firm hope that you will not fail to crown the successes achieved by your valiant armies in a heroic struggle by a faithful adherence to the moderate and pacific intentions which your Majesty proclaimed at the beginning of the war. By arresting immediately the movement of your troops in Greece and by giving a favourable reception to the mediation of the great

Powers for the establishment of peace your Imperial Majesty would acquire a fresh title to the high esteem which you enjoy and accomplish an act of profound wisdom of which I personally should for ever retain a remembrance.

"I beg your Imperial Majesty to believe in my unchanging friendship.

"NICHOLAS."

Meanwhile we know that the withdrawal of the Greeks from Crete has led to renewed disturbances there; but this is partly the fault of the procrastination of the Powers. The Athens correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows on the 31st of May:—

Great difficulties, no doubt, remain to be encountered, but it must be remembered that, even under Turkish rule, both sections of the Cretan population have found it possible to live in comparative amity for years together, and there is no reason to despair of restoring order in the island if the Powers make up their minds to tackle the problem which confronts them. It is distressing, in these circumstances, to hear a note of faint-heartedness sounded from Berlin and Vienna. A policy of *laissez aller* will not get rid of the difficulty. If Turkey is to be allowed again to send troops to the island Europe must be prepared to witness a renewal of the horrors of 1866-68. A force of 80,000 Turkish troops then succeeded in converting Crete into a desert, and Edhem Pasha, with his victorious army, might conceivably accomplish the same feat. But the Cretan problem would remain unsolved. The Powers, having put their hand to the plough, cannot turn back, and Europe must fulfil the engagement which she has undertaken.

If the Powers cannot yet agree upon the choice of a Governor-General they might at least appoint a temporary Administrator as the head of the provisional Government. The next step would be the withdrawal of the Turkish troops. I have the best reason for believing that if these measures were carried out all opposition on the part of the Christians to the proposed autonomy would disappear. There is no ground whatever for supposing that if the Turkish army were withdrawn the Christians would attack the European garrisons in the towns. The Cretans here indignantly repel such an imputation. On the other hand, far too much importance is attributed to the menacing attitude of the Mahomedan population and to their determination to prevent the departure of the troops. The effervescence prevailing among the Mahomedans is due to the excitement produced by the news of the Turkish victories in Thessaly, and still more by intrigues in Constantinople, where it is thought that the restoration of Ottoman rule in Crete is now only a question of time. When once the troops disappear the Mahomedan population, with its fatalist disposition, will prove as tractable as it was formerly turbulent. Its disarmament will then be a comparatively easy task. The restoration of the Mahomedan peasants to their homes can only be carried out gradually, and a beginning might be made with those whose residences lie in the neighbourhood of the large towns.

The recent ministerial crisis in Berlin was by no means unexpected, and we find the following in the Berlin correspondence of the *Times* under date the 2nd inst.:—

The uncertainty and uneasiness with regard to the political situation which prevail in every quarter were exemplified yesterday when the Emperor suddenly gave orders that the spring parade of the Berlin garrison on Tempelhof Common should be curtailed and that the troops should march past once, instead of as usual twice. His Majesty, who returned at an early hour in the forenoon to the Castle, had it was currently reported been recalled by urgent political affairs. Whether this was the case, and, if so, what was the nature of the "urgent" affairs can at present only be the subject of conjecture. What actually occurred on the return of his Majesty from the review was that Baron Marschall von Bieberstein was immediately received in audience. To-day it is announced that the Foreign Secretary has been granted leave and will proceed to-morrow to his estates in Southern Germany. The *North-German Gazette* says that this leave consti-

tutes Baron Marschall's annual summer holiday.

But the semi-official *Hamburgischer Correspondent* adds that in Parliamentary circles it is understood that the leave of the Foreign Secretary will be for a period of two months. The *Vossische Zeitung* says: "This announcement, if confirmed, will inevitably be interpreted as an indication that Baron Marschall's retirement from office will not be long delayed. That the Foreign Secretary, who has just given his evidence in the Tausch case, should go on leave before the trial is finished is as surprising as that he should be absent during the important negotiations for a peace between Greece and Turkey."

It is true that the health of Baron Marschall has not lately been as good as could be desired. But it is also no secret that for a man of his abilities and principles the pitiable conduct of the Prussian Government with regard to the Law of Association Amendment Bill, as well as a number of other features of the present political situation, must have been galling in the extreme. Even in recent years the aspect of the political world in Germany and Prussia has never presented such a picture of complete confusion and uncertainty—one might almost describe it as anarchy. The Government has alienated in turn every party in the State, and the feeling in the country is such that the inexperienced and sanguine new Prussian Minister of the Interior has to take refuge in the idle assertion that the Press is not correctly reflecting the feelings of the nation. Both the *Cologne Gazette* and the *National Zeitung* take Baron von der Recke sharply to task for this utterly baseless assumption. The feeling in all classes of the community is, in fact, such that Herr Richter's recent speech in the Imperial Diet does not cease to awaken responsive echoes throughout the length and breadth of the land. It is felt that unless Germany is to be condemned to chronic excitement, discontent, and uncertainty at home and to impotence abroad, a method of government more in accordance with the traditional sympathies and aspirations of the German people must be inaugurated. The interest taken in Berlin in the peace negotiations in Constantinople is almost nil, because no one believes that Germany is in a position to adopt and pursue a definite line of policy under the guidance of statesmen who are here to-day and may be gone to-morrow. For this reason chiefly, rather than by way of protest, all statements regarding the pronounced Turcophil influence of German diplomacy at the present juncture are discredited in well-informed circles, and it is believed that since the unreserved acquiescence of Greece in the plans of the Powers was secured as a result of the German initiative, no further independent steps have been taken by Germany in the Eastern question.

We give lower down a short notice of the late Mr. Ney Elias from the *Saturday Review*, but there are many of our readers who will be glad to see the following longer notice of him from the *Times* of the 2nd ult.:—

Mr. Ney Elias, late Consul-General at Veshed, died in London on Monday from blood poisoning after only a short illness, but after being in indifferent health for some time. Though almost the least known he was one of the most courageous, the most clear-sighted, and most observant of all recent-day explorers in Asia. He was exceptionally modest, and as his most important journey was made, and his most valuable reports were written, when employed in confidential service under the Government of India, it has come about that a man who, a quarter of a century ago, earned the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society for a solitary journey made from Peking to St. Petersburg, in the depth of winter and in the midst of a fanatical Chinese rebellion, and who since then has almost continuously been employed on daring journeys and delicate political missions in South-Western China, in Burma, in Chinese Turkestan, the Pamirs, Afghan Turkestan, Chitral, Siam, and Persia, is scarcely known to any Englishmen beyond a few officials of the Government of India and readers of the *Geographical Society's Journal*.

Ney Elias, at an early age, found his way to China, where he was employed for a time in a business office, and, in 1871, conceived the daring project of returning to Europe overland across the entire continent of Asia. He set out with a single Chinese servant, he crossed the terrible desert of Gobi by a route never before explored, he unconcernedly travelled amid the opposing factions of the great Mahomedan rebellion of those times, and he traversed the breadth of Siberia to Russia. The report of this journey is contained in no pretentious book of travels, and received none of the advertisement which other far less intrepid or important journeys have obtained. It was merely recorded in the sober pages of the *Journal of the Geographical Society*. But the record of this, as of all the other journeys made by Ney Elias, was so transparently truthful and interesting in detail as to gain the unstinted admiration of such men as the late Sir Harry Yule and Sir Henry Rawlinson, who were then the highest authorities upon Asiatic geography. After his return from this great journey Mr. Elias formed the conception of penetrating to the mysterious city of Lhasa, in Tibet, but being detained through political difficulties he accepted service under the Government of India, and was sent, first, to Yunnan, and afterwards to Ladak. From this latter place he was sent on a political mission to Chinese Turkestan, with the object of establishing relations, between the Government of India and the Government of the Great Province of China which bounds our Indian Empire on the north. In 1885 he again visited the same countries, and made one of his greatest and most valuable journeys, traversing the entire length of the Pamirs, visiting interesting little States that lie on either side of the Oxus, travelling through Badakhshan and Afghan Turkestan to the neighbourhood of Herat, and returning to India by way of Chitral and Gilgit. In 1889-90 Mr. Elias demarcated the frontier between Siam and the Shan States of Burma, and in 1891 he was appointed Consul-General at Meshed, in Persia, from which post he only recently retired.

Mr. Elias had for years past suffered from bad health contracted under the hardships of travel in every contrast of climate—in Siberian cold and Indian heat, in the moist malarial atmosphere of Burma and Siam, and then in the parched climates of Central Asia. All his latter journeys were made, at the call of duty, when he was suffering acutely from depressing illnesses. He was remarkable alike for his unswerving courage and determination in pursuing his object and for his modesty in recording the results of his labour when the object was attained. He was as restive and sensitive of constraint from his superiors as he was devoted to the interests of those serving under him; and only those few who have followed close upon his footsteps in China and Central Asia and those who have had opportunities of noting his work can truly appreciate the sterling value of the services he has rendered his country. For those services the single reward he received was the Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire, conferred at the conclusion of his great journey across the Pamirs and Afghanistan. But the reason why he received no further distinction afterward will be understood when it is related that, on finding it was impossible to return the decoration which had already been given him, he requested that at any rate no other honour should ever be bestowed upon him. He loved his work for the work's sake, and he was almost morbidly sensitive of anything which might be construed into popularity hunting or cheap advertisement.

The following is the leading journal's condensed report of Mr. George Jamieson's address to the Bimetallic League at Manchester on "Eastern Trade and the Silver Question":—

He said China had always been, and was now, purely silver monometallic. The effects of the fall in the gold value of silver on British trade might be divided into three classes:—(1) The effect on the capitalists, bankers, and others who have English capital invested in the East; (2) the direct effect on trade as manifested through changes in the level of prices; (3) the indirect or economic effect on production operating through a disturbance of the relation between prices and

wages. After giving instances in support of this statement he impressed upon the meeting the tremendous nature of the consequences that flowed from the present instability of gold and silver, consequences which the world could not escape so long as their relative value was left indeterminate. It was not merely a question of remittances between the two countries, which could be obviated, but it was the inevitable result in the changes of the level of prices and the consequent disturbance of the equity of all contracts that was the great and important feature. The adjustment of prices had been effected by gold prices giving way. Speaking generally, silver prices of commodities had remained steady and gold prices had fallen. That was strictly true up to a comparatively recent date, and even yet four-fifths of the adjustment was due to the fall in gold prices, and not more than a fifth to the rise in silver prices. The result was that our trade with China as a whole had been less affected than might have been supposed, but there has been a serious effect on the middleman, on whom had fallen the brunt of the petty and incessant fluctuations in the price of silver. The fact that the Eastern trade had been less affected than might be supposed because silver prices had been reasonably steady was no guarantee that it would remain so. Supposing the general level of gold prices were to rise while silver kept at its present level, it seemed to him that it might affect the Manchester trade in the Far East very adversely. Fluctuations in silver tended to create the same disturbance in wages as they did in prices. A fall in silver benefited the manufacturer in Silver-using countries, while a rise injured him. After speaking of the spread of industrialism in China and Japan, he said that there could be no stability until this question was settled and there was no hope of settling it that he could see but a wide international monetary union which would guarantee both itself and the world against any further fluctuations between the two precious metals. Both East and West were equally interested in a settlement. The Eastern manufacturer knew that the advantage which he had at present was not stable and might be taken from him. He would wish to see the ratio fixed. In conclusion, he emphasised the importance of the silver question to the industries of Britain, and especially to the great manufacturing districts of which Manchester was the centre, and, speaking impartially, he believed that one of the greatest blessings which could be secured to them would be a stable par of exchange by international agreement. (Cheers.)

The following is the Money Market note in the *Economist* of the 29th of May:—

Some gold has been taken from the Bank this week for the Continent, and although the withdrawals have been comparatively small, individually, and do not amount to a large sum in the aggregate, they have helped to give a somewhat firmer tone to the market, especially in view of the issue of the new loan of £4,390,000 for Japan, which is taken to presage further shipments of the metal thither. The Stock Exchange settlement, the payment of the first instalment on the new Indian loan, and the knowledge that the banks will, as usual, be temporarily curtailing their advances at the end of the month, have also helped to harden rates. The advance, however, has been but slight, the quotation for best three months' paper being now $\frac{15}{16}$ to 1 per cent, as compared with $\frac{9}{16}$ per cent at this time last week. And so far as can at present be seen, the probability appears to be that the upward movement will not make much, if any, further progress, for the foreign demand for gold is not likely to be pressed sufficiently to make it dearer to obtain.

In its opening article, headed "The 'Inner Ring' in South Africa," the *Economist* shows that the fact that the Dukes and other Directors of the Chartered Company had no foreknowledge of the Raid is an argument against, instead of in favour of, trusting such Companies with large powers. The Dukes were put there as honest politicians as well as men of business who would be above lending themselves to doubtful transactions. The result

has shown that they were useless, as Messrs. Rhodes and Beit, Mr. Maguire, Dr. Harris, Mr. Hawksley, the solicitor, and Miss Flora Shaw of the *Times*, ran the whole show without consulting the Dukes at all. "The shareholders were shadows, and the directors, Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit excepted, dummies. Mr. Hawksley was consulted, Dr. Rutherford Harris had a weighty voice in all matters, Mr. Maguire was kept informed, Miss Flora Shaw, the colonial editor of the *Times*, was used as an intermediary with the Colonial Office, but the responsible Board was told nothing, knew nothing, suspected nothing, and was in that, as it now appears, ignominious position entirely happy and contented." The "checking authority" which Parliament supposed was provided in the Board and in the Colonial Office, failed altogether:—

Parliament can never be secure not only that the powers it grants will not be misused, but that they will not be misused by persons of whose objects and characters and very existence it knows absolutely nothing. The Niger Company is just now the theme of limitless praise, and the East African Company and the Borneo Company are supposed to be most respectable Corporations—certainly we have heard no whisper against any of them—but where is the proof of that respectability in the political sense? How does Parliament know that some massive capitalist is not buying up shares in each of them, and intends to raid in the first case French territory; in the second case, German territory; and in the third case, the territory of the Dutch? It is easy to say such a contingency is improbable; but if gold mines of vast extent were discovered in the foreign territory it would be at least possible, and how could Parliament, in its profound ignorance of the facts and in the absence of agents of its own upon the spot, interfere rapidly and with effect? It could do nothing of the kind if money were not wanted for the raid, and money in the present day, with individuals among us as rich as States used to be, and interest in investments reduced to the lowest point, is never wanting for anything that promises large profits. The plan is a dangerous muddle, and if it is not altered, and that quickly, it will land us in complications to which this half-piratical business in South Africa will seem but a trifling affair. If the nation wants new territories, a question on which we are passing no opinion, the nation must govern them, and be responsible for them, or it will one day find its international position absolutely indefensible without great and entirely unintended wars.

The next two articles deal with "Mr. Balfour's Irish Proposals" in their political and financial aspects; and in the latter aspect the *Economist* cannot approve of them.

The following notes are from the *Saturday Review*:—

It seems likely now that the South African Committee will soon have finished its investigation into the causes and circumstances of the Jameson Raid, and will thus have completed the first half of its futile task. There will probably be a minority as well as a majority report, and confusion will be worse confounded by party dissension. Neither of the reports will command respect, or, indeed, excite any interest save the interest of idle curiosity. A dozen of the ablest men in the House of Commons have been engaged in this enquiry for some months, and it would be useless to deny that their labours have been wasted, and worse than wasted. This Committee has brought the methods of a Parliamentary Committee into discredit; it has lessened the respect with which the House of Commons has hitherto been regarded by the general public. The blame of this pretentious fiasco must fall on Mr. Chamberlain. He was the person to propose the Parliamentary Committee as the best instrument of investigation, and his chosen Court has not been able to clear even his own character from carefully formulated charges.

Mr. Stead still accuses Mr. Chamberlain of a guilty foreknowledge of the Raid; he declares that the Colonial Secretary winked at the revolutionary enterprise, and roundly

asserts that he is now indulging in a conspiracy of falsehood. Of course, Mr. Stead is not to be taken seriously; his accusations rank with those of Mr. Labouchere, yet there can be no doubt that the withheld telegrams have deepened a certain suspicion in the public mind. It must not be forgotten that this suspicion was created by Mr. Chamberlain's defence. Dr. Harris says that he spoke openly to Mr. Fairfield, and his testimony before the Committee only confirms his confidential telegram of October 1895. To this Mr. Chamberlain replies that Mr. Fairfield was deaf! But other persons were present at Dr. Harris's interview with Mr. Fairfield, and those persons have not been examined by the Committee on this point. Dr. Harris further declares that he alluded to the "plan" in a conversation with Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Chamberlain admits that he may have done so, but disposes of the matter by saying that he did not take the hint. Truly, a curious pair of officials to represent England in a matter nearly concerning the national honour!

The worst of the business is that these grounds for legitimate suspicion will be regarded as proofs of complicity by the Dutchmen of South Africa. Their mistrust has been awakened, and they are naturally suspicious. Two out of three Imperial officials in South Africa, they will say, were in the plot, and the two chief officials in England preferred to remain in wilful ignorance of it: and the proof is that the Committee did not dare to press the examination. If ever there was an engineer hoist with his own petard it is Mr. Chamberlain. As soon as he proposed the Committee of Enquiry we declared that a worse instrument for the elucidation of facts than a Parliamentary Committee could not be imagined; but Mr. Chamberlain persisted for reasons that are obvious enough now, and the net result of the foolish fishing of the Committee is that Mr. Chamberlain himself and the chief officials under him, both here and in South Africa, with the single exception of Lord Rosemead, have come badly out of the investigation.

And it has the following notice of the late Mr. Ney Elias:—

Mr. Ney Elias was of an almost morbidly retiring disposition, and the many-headed public neither knew nor cared anything about him; but his death early this week has removed not only a most distinguished explorer and public servant, but perhaps our most learned authority on Central Asian geography. He published little, and that little was never served up with pomp and ceremony for popular consumption, but every geographer knew that what Ney Elias said might be implicitly relied on. It was impossible to think of him and "travellers' tales" as even remotely associated together. He was the first to cross Central Asia from East to West, and his journeyings in and around "the roof of the world" were many. Almost his last piece of work was the preparation for the Royal Geographical Society of a statement of what still remained to be done to fill up the gaps in our knowledge of Central Asian geography.

The *Saturday* has a good article on "the Great Undeclared," showing how absurd it is in England to expect to see a man who is really distinguished in "art or science, letters, learning, or journalism, has even been President of his Institute, and has won perhaps a more than European reputation," decorated by his Sovereign. Birthday honours, New-Year honours, Jubilee honours, etc. are reserved for "provincial mayors, political martyrs who have sacrificed themselves for their party, faithful but obscure Civil servants, army veterans and naval heroes, city magnates, millionaire bankers or brewers, Indian magistrates, and Colonial governors."

Certainly there are some things managed better in other countries than our own. The prompt recognition of von Röntgen by the Regent of Bavaria and by the German Emperor has been already alluded to. When Nansen visited Paris, on his very first lecture a Minister attended to bestow upon him the insignia of the Legion of Honour. When he lectured in London the Prince took the chair—and there the matter ended. When

Dr. Ludwig Mond gave the Davy-Faraday laboratory for research, at a cost of £100,000, the Prince came to the opening ceremony; but all the title he bestowed upon the munificent donor was the misplaced epithet of "Professor." Had half the sum been secretly conveyed by some brewer or tobaccoist to the war-chest of a political party, a baronetcy at least would have promptly followed.

Meantime titles are already being showered upon obscure officials. Last week's *Times* gave a list of honours conferred personally by the Queen upon the most undistinguished men—if we except the Director-General of Ordnance—whom we have ever seen collected together in any such list. Amongst these now titled items there figured a Secretary to the Board of Customs, a Commissioner of Inland Revenue, a legal Secretary to the Lord Advocate of Scotland; and, to crown all, as if secretaries and under-secretaries had not been sufficiently recognised, the proud dignity of K.C.M.G. was conferred upon an Assistant-Under-Secretary for the Colonies.

The tale is left but half told. There are young men, like Ramsay, the discoverer of the new element helium, who can afford to wait; and there are old men grown grey in literature, or art, or science, to whom it is too late to offer any official honours. But the scandal of the neglect of really distinguished men, particularly in science, remains as a blot not quickly to be erased. The onus of retrieving this scandal rests on those who are responsible for its existence.

There is a good article, too, on "Police Corruption in India."

The following notes are from the *Spectator*:—

A fresh symptom betrays the change of feeling in Constantinople. Abdul-Hamid has purposely restricted the powers of the Grand Vizier, who throughout Turkish history has wielded the whole secular authority of the Sultan, until that great officer is now a dignified nonentity. Rifaat Ali Pasha, however, the Grand Vizier of to-day, has been moved by recent events to assert himself, and in a "Report," given *in extenso* elsewhere, has urged his master to defy Europe and keep Thessaly in his own hands. His reasons are that the Powers are enemies seeking the destruction of Turkey, that they forbade the policy pursued in Armenia, and that nevertheless that policy succeeded. Consequently defiance will again succeed. If, however, his Majesty disagrees with him he begs to tender his resignation. This amazing document, which expresses the genuine Mussulman feeling, has been published to the whole of Europe, either by the Grand Vizier as a protest, or by the Sultan as evidence that he cannot resist the pressure of the Moslem world. In either case it means mischief, and if followed up by deeds, will radically modify the situation. The Concert must either break up, or coerce Turkey, or by yielding confess that it possesses no longer any substantial authority, and that the Sultan must treat all Christians as he pleases.

Of course there is the usual crop of rumours. It is stated that the Russian Court is seriously moved, that remonstrances have been addressed to Germany, and that if the Turkish attitude is persisted in the Russian fleet will act, Bulgaria at the same time threatening war. It is affirmed at Athens that Lord Salisbury has interfered in favour of the evacuation of Thessaly, and it is believed in Constantinople that the German Emperor means to precipitate a quarrel with St. Petersburg. It is also rumoured in Vienna that the war may continue, and that the immense accumulation of Turkish troops in Europe can have no other meaning. It will be well to distrust all these sensational stories, and to remember that the struggle of the parties round Yildiz Kiosk is not over, that each uses its own view of the attitude of each Power as a weapon in the contest, and that throughout the East lying on politics assumes the dignity of a fine art. The facts seem to show a deep rift between Germany and Russia, but the facts are made no stronger by sensational telegrams as to their possible meaning. It is well to remember, also, that in the East a struggle of the kind now raging often expresses itself through a Palace Revolution.

The opening leading article in the *Spectator*, on "The Fate of Thessaly," is another

impeachment of the Concert of Europe. The *Spectator* fears that the Concert is going to be false to what has been a maxim of European policy for a hundred years, "that no Christian community once rescued from the Turks should ever be replaced under their control." In considering what the Concert will do, it says:—

There is no proof that they will feel for the Thessalians any more than they did for the Armenians, and much proof, in the language of the Ambassadors, that the successful mobilisation of the Turkish Army has made them far more afraid of provoking the Sultan to a determined resistance. It is said that they will be moved by Christian feeling; but will Christian feeling move them to risk war, and why should they care for Christian Thessalians any more than for Christian Macedonians or the Christian Greeks of the islands? It is said they will be moved by policy; but which of them will be hurt because Thessaly is made miserable, or which will undertake the cost of a war to prevent Turkey from increasing her dominion? They are not likely, as a whole to outstrip Great Britain in unselfishness, and the boldest action attributed to Lord Salisbury—who is, we deeply regret to see, weighted by domestic anxieties—is a threat that if Turkey is allowed to remain in Thessaly, Great Britain will quit the Concert. The threat is perfectly right; but in what way will it affect the movements of Edhem Pasha's army? And lastly, it is said they will be moved by pride, feeling that Europe is insolently defied by a half-barbarian Power; but was not their pride equally outraged when the massacre of Armenians was renewed in Constantinople itself, and did they do anything then? Russia may move by herself, for reasons explained in the next article, but it is of the Concert we are now talking, not of its component parts. The Concert has not succeeded yet in securing any one unselfish object, not even in enfranchising Crete, and we feel no security that it will be either able or willing to retain Thessaly within the domain of civilisation. Why should it be, when no change has occurred since the Armenian outrages, except that Abdul-Hamid, then supposed to be a weak man cowering, is now recognised by the Ambassadors as a strong man armed?

In its next article the *Spectator* shows that the contumacy of Turkey may lead to a serious disagreement between Germany and Russia. The *Spectator* is much pleased with Mr. Balfour's Irish policy, and considers that the South Africa enquiry has been sadly mismanaged, but hopes that the Dukes will insist on "the fullest and freest investigation into the manner in which the Chartered Company has discharged its task." There is a bird story and a cat story.

Sambourne's cartoon in *Punch*, Russia suggesting that she should take over the Greek war indemnity and deduct it from the debt Turkey owes to Russia, is amusing, but there is not much in Tenniel's cartoon of Gerald Balfour driving "Tenant" and "Landlord" together, though there is a great deal of spirit in the drawing. There is a very good cartoon of "The Party Mount" by F. C. Gould in the *Westminster*.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—If the blood is laden with impurities it spreads disease as it circulates through the organs of the human body—Lungs, Heart, Stomach, Kidneys, Brain. Clarke's World-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds its effects are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

Outports.

CHEFOO.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Your correspondent having come to the coast for a holiday sends a note or two on the changed aspect of Chefoo since he saw it last.

CHEFOO

seems to be rapidly filling up in the native portion of it, and the writer was quite bewildered in finding what a short time ago was open ground now covered with streets of native houses, and buildings being pushed on in all directions. Amongst the foreign population too, building has been and is proceeding apace. Fine towers have been added to the Catholic Church. The neat little building of St. Saviour's, erected for the S. P. G. Mission and used for Episcopal church services, is certainly an additional ornament to the port. The imposing buildings erected for the French Consul and those now erecting for the Russian Consul all testify to the importance of Chefoo in the eyes of these great Powers.

THE C.I.M.

The China Inland Mission Schools are also doubling their accommodation for both boys and girls, and very handsome school buildings, now in course of erection, are not only an evidence of energy and prosperity of a very substantial kind, but are also a very important addition to the public buildings of Chefoo. The writer has recently visited

WEIHAIWEI,

and finds that the Japanese troops are being rapidly reduced and that only a comparatively small garrison now holds the place. The forts are all dismantled and in ruins; expensive Krupp guns of large calibre lying about, some broken and fractured by charges of dynamite and all thrown down and damaged in such a way as to be rendered utterly useless. One wonders why these costly cannon were not preserved, as it was the Japanese conquerors who destroyed them, not the Chinese, who simply ran away and left them intact. One would have supposed that they could easily have been transported to Japan and used there in coast defence. These dismantled forts which were quite new and had been built at great cost under foreign supervision, give one an impressive sense of the desolation that war brings in its train, and a distressing sense of the impotence of the Chinese in the use of these modern modes of warfare and their utter helplessness as opposed to any European Power or a Power like Japan. The thrifty husbandman has, in the meanwhile, changed the aspect of affairs by using the ground occupied by the forts as an addition to the adjoining fields of millet or sweet potatoes.

3rd July.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Reliable Remedies:—In wounds, bruises, sprains, glandular swellings, enlarged veins, neuralgic pains and rheumatism, the application of this soothing Ointment to the affected parts not only gives the greatest ease, but likewise cures the complaint. The Pills much assist in banishing the tendency to rheumatism and similar painful disorders, whilst the Ointment cures the local ailment. The Pills remove the constitutional disturbance and regulate every impaired function of every organ throughout the human body. The cure is neither temporary nor superficial, but permanent and complete, and the disease rarely recurs, so perfect has been the purification performed by these searching yet harmless preparations.

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FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Baron Nogi, Governor-General of Formosa, has departed for Tokio for a reported stay of a month or so. It has been rumoured about, however, that the special object of his visit is to hand in his resignation, in consequence of the attack on Taipeh by the rioters some weeks ago. This may be so. Many of the Japanese newspapers, I believe, consider that he, as the highest officer of the Formosa administration which has given such a vivid example of its weakness, should resign and admit that he was not equal to the task.

A POPULAR OFFICIAL.

I believe that I am voicing the views of the whole foreign community, missionaries included, and the better class of Chinese, when I state it is considered that to recall Lieutenant-General Nogi at this critical period would be a great calamity to the island. There has never been in Formosa a man so generally respected as His Excellency. The most virulent foreign writers, the most complaining of the respectable Chinese, none have had one word of complaint to say against him.

CONSTANT CHANGES CONDEMNED.

I can conceive of no more effective way of making affairs in the island worse than they are at present, than by changing the two or three higher officials. During the two years of Japanese administration in the island we have had three Governors, all good men, but each bringing forth his own ideas and putting them into execution to the detriment of the Chinese, who were so constantly subjected to changes of system, the imposition of new regulations, etc., that they knew not where they stood, and trade was thrown into confusion. I believe that the Chinese would have no opposition to a little mild oppression were they allowed to carry on their usual vocations without official interference. But the Japanese, with the best of intentions, desire to give them the extent of freedom and equality enjoyed upon the mainland, and accordingly introduce them to the intricacies of law and a mass of regulations, a great number of which are, of course, absolutely necessary. But the Chinese whose experience with officials in their own land has been far from pleasant place all Japanese officials in the same category, and the sight of a policeman with a note book very nearly throws them into hysterics. It is this dread of everything official that makes it so often difficult to inflict punishment upon guilty parties, when the Chinese are the victims. As an example; a few weeks ago a Japanese coolie was arrested for beating a Chinese. The Chinese in question was told to follow to the Prefectural Police Office, which he did. But after his arrival he was in such a great funk that it was necessary to postpone the examination until the Chinese could make a plain statement. This was explained to him fully, but no sooner was he released than he fled and has not again been seen there to this day.

AWARDING BLAME.

Under General Nogi, many reforms were introduced; pecculating officers were arrested in considerable numbers, and Formosa residents were hoping at last to see peace and order restored when the attack on Tawatutia occurred. While the country is still disturbed and rumours of attacks by bandits are constant, Tawatutia has not again been troubled and the Japanese are keeping a closer guard on the settlement. It seems to be the desire in Japan to place the blame on the shoulders of some one official and the Japanese Press have apparently selected Governor-General Nogi for the burden; while the home government has, I believe, criticised Mr. Hashiguchi, Tai-

peh prefect, and severely censured Commander-in-chief Major-General Nakagawa. Neither Governor-General Nogi nor Prefect Hashiguchi are to blame, and to one who views affairs from the outside it would seem that the home government in Tokio could with much propriety shoulder a large portion of it.

THE AREA OF FORMOSA

is nearly 15,000 miles square; every mile of which, excluding that part occupied by the savages, contains some enemies of Japan. It has been considered necessary to place all under Japanese administration, and there are not troops nor policemen enough to give each district the number it requires. I believe this has often been pointed out to the main government, perhaps even by the two officers above mentioned. The members of the Diet cannot understand the situation at all by viewing affairs from Tokio. The fact, unpleasant as it is, must be faced; the Chinese throughout the island, generally, dislike the Japanese. This will no doubt in the future be changed to the better. The Chinese must, in time, see that the intentions of the Japanese are of the best and that the advantages of civilisation and education, etc., are given them for their benefit. However, the present is to be considered. The situation must be reckoned with as it is not as it ought to be. More troops, more gendarmes, and more police are needed, and the police should be selected not from raw recruits but be picked up from the police now on duty in Japan and be old and trusted men.

THE ATTACK

on Tawatutia was beneficial on one way, and that was that it taught a lesson to the Japanese and exposed to them their own weakness. Governor-General Nogi and every other officer in North Formosa has profited by it. It has been instruction to them. They are better able to cope with similar disturbances in the future. But one Chinese street in the market place suffered on that occasion. Had the mob's numbers been greatly increased, and it must be admitted that there was plenty of material to draw from, the mob might have gone round five blocks further and entered the walls of the capital. As it was they confined themselves to the rich merchants and then escaped, but not, however, without serious loss.

EXPERIENCE.

Now that the lesson has been learnt and taken to heart, it is suggested by some of the Press that the Governor-General should be recalled. I should say that it was all the more necessary that he should stay. He is known to be a man of courage, common sense, and energy. Experience is of prime necessity but can only be obtained with time. Let the Central Government keep "hands off" of the Governor-General and his reforms, the Chinese will, with time, absorb the new regulations and when they find that they are lasting and that not what is "per regulations" to-day is against regulations to-morrow, all will be well and good in the island and reflect creditably on the Empire.

Taipeifu, 30th June.

Holloway's Pills.—This cooling Medicine has the happiest effect when the blood is overheated and a tendency to inflammatory action is set up in the system; one Pill taken shortly before dinner does away with the indigestion, fullness, and flatulency—indications of a weak stomach or disordered liver. A few Pills taken at bedtime act as alteratives and aperients; they not only relieve the bowels but regulate every organ connected with them, overcome all acrid humours, and encourage a free supply of all the secretions essential to our well-being. Holloway's Pills thoroughly cleanse and perfectly regulate the circulation, and beget a feeling of comfort in hot climates and high temperatures, which is most desirable for preservation of health.

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NORTH KIANGSU.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BETTER TIMES.

In behalf of about five millions of Kiangsu people the most welcome news I can send you is: "The wheat crop is safely in, and the fear of suffering is past." There has really been much suffering during the past year, many being forced to live on soup, and only one meal per day of that.

AN ACTIVE OFFICIAL.

A new official is making a stir here at Suchien. He is a new magistrate and is building himself a good name by being hard on his underlings. He sees that his orders are carried out, something as rare as it is refreshing. An order to put a man in the stocks used to amount to a bribe to the guard on duty. The offender was then put in and let out as soon as the magistrate was gone. This magistrate got up at 4 a.m. the other day to see if two offenders were still in the bonds. Fortunately the man on duty that night had had wit enough to carry out the orders. A door boy was called into his presence. The boy whose day it was to watch the door was out, and a friend thinking there was money in it gladly took the place of the missing boy. As he came before the magistrate he asked: "Are you the one on duty to-day?" "Yes, your honour." "Then why did you let that idle fellow roam in here just now? Give him 50 bamboos!" The friend ate a little "dumb bitterness" then. Also a few days ago a clerk who writes petitions handed in a long petition. It had a few wrong characters. These the magistrate frowned at. But when he had waded through the tautological folds, he ordered the clerk to kneel and receive "20" and remain kneeling.

WHAT AN OFFICIAL CAN DO.

The R.C. Mission bought property at Suchien a few weeks ago. It is the first out-and-out purchase here, though the Presbyterians have had a station here for three years, living in rented inns. The owner would not sell to foreigners. The Catholics then sent a native to buy it in his own name. This was accomplished. But when the native turned over the property with a nice little squeeze for himself, the previous owner could not stand it. He brought suit in the *yamen* saying that he had sold the place to the native for a flower garden. The official wisely answered: "You sold your property, did you?" "Yes." "Well, then, do you expect to manage some one else's place? You go and get out and that within five days, too." The people have taken the cue and hardly a day has passed since the purchase was decided by the magistrate, but that offers to sell to foreigners have been made. Formerly only a few desperate characters who owned property in undesirable quarters would offer to sell to the foreigner.

24th June.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—The most effectual Cure for Gout and Rheumatism. — A frequent cause of these complaints is the inflammatory state of the blood, attended, with bad digestion, lassitude, and great debility, showing the want of a proper circulation of the fluid, and that impurity of the blood greatly aggravates these disorders. Holloway's Pills are of so purifying a nature that a few doses taken in time are an effectual preventive against gout and rheumatism, but anyone that has an attack of either should use Holloway's Ointment also, the powerful properties of which, combined with the effects of the Pills, ensure a certain cure. The Ointment should be thoroughly rubbed into the parts affected at least twice a day, after they have been sufficiently fomented with warm water to open the pores to facilitate the introduction of the Ointment to the glands.

(1)

TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TIENTSIN AND ITS SUMMER RESORT.

We have been having some hot days "off and on," with indications that the "rainy season" is close upon us. It is sultry, with clouds all about and heavy thunder in some directions as I write, but, apparently, the rain cloud is passing us by. Some rain has fallen of late—more is needed for the growing crops, but not a downpour, which is to be feared. The contrast between this and the seaside at Rocky Point makes very apparent to those who can get away there for even a few days in their press of business, the great boon that has come to North China—especially Tientsin—in the discovery of this place, and its nearness of access by the railway. There is already quite a large company gathered there in search of rest and invigoration, and they appear to be having "a good time." I enclose an account of the observance of the "Glorious Fourth" which a friend has kindly sent me. The heartiness with which the "Britishers" joined with their "cousins" in the celebration, and the cordiality with which they were invited to participate in all the doings, is only another of the indications of the close bond of sympathy which really exists between the two nations.

THE RIVER.

That which interests Tientsin more than anything else at the present time is the condition and prospects of the river. So far as I can learn, nothing has been done by the Chinese authorities towards its conservancy. And it is now too late to accomplish anything the present season. They have proposed a scheme which on the very face of it means a heavy "squeeze" from the government if it is carried out, involving as it does an outlay of about a million taels. It would seem as if they would rather have the extensive business of the place ruined than take hold of the matter in a sensible way and restore the old conditions of the river at a moderate outlay. Indeed it would almost seem as if they desired to ruin the place. Is this a part of their anti-foreign feeling, not caring what injury may come to the development of the large territory of which Tientsin is the natural outlet? The scheme proposed by the foreign expert who has made a study of the situation, is modest in comparison, involving an outlay of about a quarter of a million taels. To those who have a knowledge of the old conditions, when steamers came up to the bund the entire season, before overflow canals were cut above the city, and tidewater outlets below the city, when there was a volume of water and rapidity of current at the ebb sufficient to keep the channel scoured free from silt, the problem appears an easy one. Decrease the overflow, and let the volume of water follow its old and proper channel: stop the outflow through many canals of the tide water, and give it its full power of ebb as formerly, and the thing is practically accomplished. Under these conditions, the channel will take care of itself. Additional helps to deepen it might be applied if desirable, such as straightening the river in some places, if deemed advisable. Had these conditions been restored in the Spring, there is little reason to doubt that the steamers would have come up to the bund right along to the present time and onward to the end of the season. A few hundred coolies, and a few thousand taels would accomplish this by simply stopping up the entrance to these canals between Tientsin and Taku with the original mud. If the flood gates talked about are needed or desirable for any reason, they can be put in later when the desirability is demonstrated. The need now is of a different nature, and is easily met in this way. As a further help, let the entrances to the overflow

canals be raised a foot or so, so as to restore in a measure the former volume of water. These are simple methods for accomplishing a great result—nothing new, simple restoration. So much silt has been deposited and the bottom of the river has risen so much, that it will take some time for all the silt to be scoured out: possibly if done at once, the old conditions of navigation might not be reached this year fully, but the probabilities are that two months would see some of the steamers at our bund again. Will the Chinese do anything is the vital question.

8th July.

THE FOURTH AT PEITAIHO.

Monday morning opened rather unpromisingly, and some rain fell, but towards noon the usual cool sea breeze sprang up and drove the clouds and rain away. For two or three days previously the citizens of the Great Republic had been busily making preparations, and with true American hospitality invited all the foreigners of Rocky Point, numbering in all about 100 persons, to a most enjoyable supper. It was at first proposed to hold the festivities on the beach, but the threatening appearance of the weather caused a change in the plan and tables were spread in the Assembly Hall. The Rocky Point "National Guards" composed of the boys and girls of the place, and under the command of Dr. Coltman, acted as a guard of honour. Before supper was served, the Rev. Dr. Taft standing in the centre of the hall, and surrounded by the brave guards, read aloud to the assembled audience that ever-memorable document the Declaration of Independence, but how glad we were that this was not followed by anything more serious than a "tea-fight," and that not after the manner of that one in Boston harbour!

This bracing atmosphere is a wonderful appetiser and full justice was done to the abundance of good things. After which there was an adjournment till 7.30 p.m. when a choice programme was provided for the evening's entertainment. The Chairman, Mr. Aiken, welcomed the guests and made a few remarks appropriate to "The Day We Celebrate" which was followed by the whole assembly singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." The Rev. Mr. Chapin then led in prayer, thanking God for the great prosperity enjoyed by the United States of America, in the past, and pleading for His guidance and protection in the future. We were fortunate in having with us the Rev. Mr. Githens, a Southern gentleman, as he gave us some reminiscences. In the course of his address he remarked how wonderful it was so many denominations and so many different nationalities were with one heart joined together to celebrate the day. He himself, too, a few days previously, on board the ship from San Francisco had united with the British Consul in singing "God Save the Queen." Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Pitkin, and Mr. Pitkin each favoured the audience with solos, which were highly appreciated, Miss Hobart gave a patriotic recitation, and Mrs. Mordhorst and Master James Tenney gave a violin duet. Representatives of Great Britain and Canada being called upon, Dr. Hart responded on behalf of the Mother country, and showed how the government of Britain of 120 years ago did not represent the will of the British people, but that of the king and a few of his Ministers, hence the British people were not responsible for the wrongs which led to the war for independence. We were all descendants of the same stock that came over in the *Mayflower*. At the conclusion of Dr. Hart's address the whole audience joined in singing "God Save the Queen." Dr. McClure responded on behalf of the Dominion of Canada. Professor Headland favoured the audience with an address in which he said the grand ideal was not so much national independence as national interdependence. "America" by the audience brought a very enjoyable entertainment to a close.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

Lieutenant-General Unterberger, the Military Governor of the Maritime District, having been appointed Governor of Nijni-Novgorod, has been succeeded by General Sabhotich.

SHIPPING NEWS.

To date this year, 76 steamers have arrived, which is considerably more than in the corresponding period of last year. The war ships and government vessels now in port are the *Admiral Nachimoff*, *Pamyat Azova*, *Rurik*, *Dmitri Donskoi*, *Zabinka*, *Silach* (old ice-breaker) and the *Nadejni* (the new ice-breaker). Since the re-opening of the port this year 14,000 Chinese coolies have arrived. The new graving dock here has a length of 350 feet, and a breadth of 112 feet.

24th June.

NOTES FROM VLADIVOSTOCK.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE JUBILEE : A SILENT CELEBRATION.

The chief engineer of the great Siberian-Manchurian line, with a considerable number of assistants from St. Petersburg, were passengers on the *Nagato Maru* which arrived in this port to-day. The party includes a number of Russians who are very brilliant in their profession of engineering. They had a delightful voyage along the coast and were much interested in what they saw of Korean life, and in other features of a voyage which was thoroughly "international." There were some passengers aboard the *Nagato* who took the steamer at Hongkong, and these enjoyed a trip which was exceedingly interesting. The British subjects among the passengers were delighted all along—Hongkong, Shanghai, Chefoo, Chemulpo, Nagasaki, Fusan, Gensan—with the interest shown by the government representatives of those communities in the Diamond Jubilee. But there was nothing to delight these people in what they found in Vladivostock. Not a cannon was boomed, not a flag was raised, not a thing was done to mark the day. Perhaps this complete absence of interest in an anniversary which the world in general observed with becoming respect was due as much to the damp and very unpleasant condition of the weather here, as to the rather anti-English feeling that is found among Russians generally these days. There was a British steamer or two in port, but if the officers aboard those ships celebrated they were not demonstrative enough to disturb the silent hundreds on the neighbouring Russian warships. It is entirely probable that Vladivostock is the only port of considerable size in any civilised country in the world where there was absolutely no observance of the remarkable occasion. That there exists in this community pronounced anti-British sentiment it does not require long to determine. The Britishers aboard vessels appreciate the feeling, and while they understand they will never be subjected to personal insult or indignity, they spend very little time ashore. Whether so queer and apparently inconsistent a combination as Russia, Germany, and France has been formed or not, it is nevertheless a fact that the commercial representatives of these three countries get along very nicely and harmoniously as bed-fellows in Vladivostock. There is no doubt at all that Britishers are looked upon with suspicion by some of the secret agents of the Russian government here.

AN OPEN PORT IN WINTER ?

The Russian Government is determined, if possible, to frustrate the work

of nature, and keep this port open the year round. To accomplish this purpose a tremendous ice-boat has been brought from Europe. The boat arrived very recently. It is confidently expected Vladivostock will be kept open next winter. This, if accomplished, will be a remarkable thing. It has never been done yet, although an ice-breaker of good proportions tackled the "crystallisations" a couple of winters since. The new boat, the product of Danes, is of such tremendous weight, as to be able, it is said, to break ice a couple of feet thick or thicker, and do it so handily that persons aboard the craft hardly feel any special vibration. The Danish inventors and engineers who brought the ice-breaker from Europe do not appear to have the slightest doubt as to the complete success of the machine.

ANTICIPATING THE GREAT RAILWAY.

Business men, generally, in this section are pleased with the conditions and prospects. They have begun vigorous prosecution of the work of constructing the trans-Siberian railway, and predict such an impetus to emigration and general business after the completion of that great prospective artery as no country ever witnessed before. The chief engineer of the railway, whose arrival at this port I have mentioned, has spent a good deal of time at Peking, and it is understood there is now absolutely nothing in the way of going ahead with the enterprise, and building the road through Manchuria, and thereby making an actual saving of 600 or 700 miles, besides securing other advantages probably greater than the one named. The chief engineer is now in conference with the Russian Governor, and in a week or two there will be a confab. between these officers and representatives of Manchurian interests. These are but mere formalities to be attended to, however, and it is only a matter of another fortnight when the work of the final survey will be begun. It is the purpose to prosecute this work with all possible vigour. There are well-informed men in this community who predict that the Trans-Siberian railway will be an accomplished fact when the new century begins, and this, notwithstanding the fact that not nearly as much has been accomplished since the first rail was laid as even the conservative Russians predicted. When construction work is actually resumed many thousands of coolies, Chinese and Koreans, but particularly the former, will be put at work. It is said that 8,000 or 10,000 able-bodied natives of Manchuria can easily be secured at a rate not greater than 20 *copeks* a day.

J. T. MANNIX.

27th June.

(From the Nagasaki Shipping List.)

The very considerable list of passengers on the *Nagato Maru*, which arrived here on the 27th inst., included the Chief Engineer of the great Manchurian-Siberian railway, with many assistants, their wives and others, who go to make up the very large party that will soon begin the final survey of the Manchurian-Siberian railway. There is a stir about here among the officials who are directly connected with this great enterprise, and there is no doubt that the Government has concluded that, in view of the political state of affairs existing at the present time, the construction of the proposed artery of traffic should and must be pushed with all possible energy and expedition. The Chief Engineer has spent a great deal of time lately at Peking and it is understood that there is absolutely no difficulty in the way of proceeding with the work. Upon his arrival here he immediately sought the Governor and is now in daily conference with that official. These two officers will soon meet representatives of Manchurian interests, and then certain little formalities will be adjusted, and the final survey will be

begun. It is expected the survey will be completed in two or three months' time. As nearly as can be determined now, there will be an actual saving in distance of about 1,000 versts—something like 700 or 800 English miles—by running the road through Manchuria. While this is of course a very important consideration, especially in view of the rather peculiar topography of the part of Siberia through which the road would run if it were built up and around Manchuria instead of across the upper or northern extension of that country, there are other very important considerations. The construction of the line according to the original plan—entirely on Russian territory—would mean great difficulty to be encountered in mid-winter. It is thought by many that it would be next to impossible to keep the road open in winter if it ran as far to the north as would be required in getting round Manchuria. The Russian Government, it is said, is determined that this road, built primarily for military purposes, shall be open at all seasons of the year.

The same great and enterprising Government is also determined that this very important strategic point (Vladivostock) shall also be open during the winter. Unless all the plans of interested officials fail, Vladivostock will be open during the entire winter. To bring about this unprecedented state of affairs an immense ice-boat has been purchased. This machine arrived in port a short time since in charge of engineers and others representing the Danish company that manufactured it. The inventor and others who are here to witness the trial say they do not entertain the least doubt as to the complete success of the boat. The affair is of such tremendous weight that it will crush ice two or three feet in thickness, and do it so well that people aboard the craft will not appreciate the great work that is being accomplished—will not appreciate from the comparatively little vibration that the machine is removing so great an obstacle. The business people here are much pleased, of course, over the activity of the Government in these important matters. It means much to a community which has heretofore been regarded as important principally from a military and naval point of view. There is hardly a business man of any importance in Vladivostock that does not predict very great things for this place. Business here is very brisk. Hundreds of buildings, private dwellings, and huge store-houses are being erected. These are all of substantial character, a great majority of them being brick.

The shipping business of this port and section has increased very largely during the past two years. All the companies, and particularly the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, report a business greatly increased over last year. The Japanese Company—that institution which perhaps illustrates the great progress made by the Japanese nation better than any other business concern in the Empire—is giving such satisfactory services, both passenger and freight, that it is not surprising the local manager, a popular gentleman who has lived in St. Petersburg and elsewhere in the Empire, and is familiar with the Russian language and the wants of the people, reports the Company's affairs at this end to be in an excellent state.

JOSEPH T. MANNIX.

29th June.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.

—"The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Scoury, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sole everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

YANGCHOW.

(FROM A CHINKIANG CORRESPONDENT.)

This is one of the large prefectural cities of the province, situated on the Grand Canal some fifteen or twenty miles north of Chinkiang. Yangchow prefecture has the honour of having eight magistracies dependent upon it, being second in the province to Soochow alone, which claims nine magistracies. Two of the *hsiens* have headquarters in Yangchow. One of these goes by the name of.

"THE SWEET SPRING HSIEN,"

but even its name cannot make all things pleasant. A short time ago four robbers were brought in from a country village and condemned to death. The day and place were quietly announced for the execution of the victims. However, the magistrate, fearing too large a crowd would be gathered, changed all appointments, but did not commute the sentence of death. He waited over one day, then had the thieves taken to an open space within the city where the executioner quickly severed four heads from their respective bodies, thus showing that the wages of sin is death. The bodies were left to be viewed for a time, while the heads were taken back to the city where the crime had been perpetrated, and stuck up on poles as a warning to all who were tempted to do the like.

STORIES ABOUT STEALING CHILDREN

seem to be on the increase. Some months ago two of the Baptist missionaries and two natives visited the border of Anhui province. The reception given them was a genial one, all seeming to be curiously glad to see and hear a foreigner. There was very little cursing and everything encouraged the visitors so far as appearances went. Two weeks ago the native helper returned alone to the same section but was scarcely allowed to enter one of the villages, which on the first visit had given such a hearty reception. A child was said to be lost. How else could it be accounted for except that the foreigner had stolen it? Thus it is. No foundation for such a rumour has as yet been given.

THE LITERATI INTERPOSE.

Not only in the country are such charges made. The Methodist missionaries in Yangchow were visited, not long since, by some influential Chinese friends (a young relative of Li Hung-chang among them), and told by them that the rabble of the city were getting out a report on their mission in the city, that they had stolen a child. These young *literati* assured the missionaries that they themselves did not believe such reports, but advised that all necessary precautions be taken to avoid even the appearance of anything that might add to the rumour.

News also comes from Shantung province that reports about child stealing in that section seem to be more numerous during the last few months.

A VISITOR FROM THE STATES.

Pastor Stearns, of Germantown, Penn., U.S.A., who has been holding a series of meetings in Shanghai paid a short visit to Yangchow last week. He gave four helpful talks to a large number of missionaries, who assembled in the C.I.M. home to hear him. Several from Chinkiang and other places, as well as the regular Yangchow workers, had the pleasure of listening to these addresses.

Chinkiang, 8th July.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—Clarke's World-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands, of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. Beware of worthless imitations.

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WEATHER AND THE WEEK.

We have had a week's respite from heat. On Monday last the temperature, influenced by the great depressions outside and the continued heavy rains, fell to 75, and we have since rejoiced in a coolness quite phenomenal for the time of year, but as acceptable as it is rare. It comes as a welcome compensation for the unusual heat of May and June. The rainfall for the latter month exceeded 28 inches. Another typhoon threatens from the north, so we shall probably have a speedy break-up of the fine weather of the past two days.

Of news there is a positive dearth, and this letter must necessarily be a dull one.

Amusements lately have been scarce; even bathing parties have had to be suspended on many occasions owing to the inclemency of the weather, while golf and tennis have been impossible except for the latter on concreted courts.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 28th ult., at which the business put through was rather unimportant. The unresting member for the Chamber gave notice of a number of new questions, doubtless regarded by officials as superfluous; one question of which notice had been given was answered by the Colonial Secretary who laid on the table a return showing the total cost of the administration including pensions and allowances. This was \$1,391,675 in 1896 as compared with \$1,366,181 in 1895. Mr. Whitehead has asked for copies of the dispatches and instructions received from the Secretary of State in connection with applications in respect of increase of salaries; a return showing all sterling payments made in England for any purpose or in the Colony, on a gold basis, with the equivalent dollar amounts disbursed by the Treasury in respect thereof, such return to embrace the period from 1890 to 1898, the last two years being of course estimates: to know what steps the Government now propose to take with a view to the speedy disposal of the resumed land at Taipingshan, and what were the causes of the failure to obtain a bid at the recent public auction; also details of account of the loan of £200,000 raised in 1887. The reply to these questions will give some work to the Government departments, and presumably are intended to throw some light on matters of public interest. I believe the reasons for the failure to realise the land at Taipingshan were partly the high Crown rent asked, and partly the indisposition of the Chinese to invest in land owing to the sanitary regulations now imposed, and which they require time to digest. Real property has never had so protracted a period of dullness as during the past ten years, and values of all except specially favoured lots have either remained stationary or receded. Now is no time to realise land.

THE SANITARY BOARD AND ITS SUBORDINATE OFFICERS.

The only business of interest before the Sanitary Board at its meeting on the 30th ult. was the discussion of a resolution, proposed by the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May), calling upon the subordinate officers, interpreters, and clerks serving under the Board to furnish a full and accurate statement of the business concerns, if any, in which they are interested. The Medical Officer of Health opposed the resolution on the ground that the Board was only in the position of a Government Department and could not make any further legal demand on its officers. It was also, in his opinion, casting a slur on the subordinate officers to make such a demand. Mr. May defended his action on the ground that rumours had got into circulation regarding the business transactions of some of these officials, and it was their duty to sift the

matter. They had more evidence than Dr. Clarke appeared to be aware of. Ultimately the resolution was put to the meeting and adopted by the casting vote of the Chairman.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE GAOL.

Mr. H. B. Lethbridge, Governor of Victoria Gaol, has left the service, having accepted the post of Deputy Governor of Borstal Convict Prison, Kent. The post will now, I understand, be amalgamated with that of Superintendent of Police, and the Colony will save at least a part of the salary.

DEATH OF AN OLD COLONIST.

I regret to have to record the death of Mr. J. M. Armstrong, Government Auctioneer, which occurred early this morning. Mr. Armstrong was a very old resident, having arrived here far back in the sixties, as a member of the firm of Messrs. Hunt & Co. Some thirty years ago he established himself as an auctioneer, and has carried on this business ever since. He was 64 years of age and leaves a widow and two children. Mr. Armstrong, who was a very old member of the Masons, was much respected in the Colony.

VOLUNTEER FUNERAL.

For the first time in the history of the Volunteer movement in this Colony the Volunteers had on the 1st inst. to attend the funeral of a comrade at the Protestant Cemetery, Wong-wei-cheong, and pay him the customary military honours. The deceased was Bombardier J. A. Inglis, of the Field Battery, and he died on Tuesday night, at the Government Civil Hospital, of enteric fever. He was present at the Jubilee Review on the 22nd ult. and seemed in good health on that occasion. Major Sir John Carrington, Captain Chapman, and Lieuts. Wylie and Fullerton were the officers present, and the Band of the West Yorkshire Regiment headed the procession. The firing party consisted of men from the Field Battery. Deceased, who had been a quartermaster sergeant in the Royal Artillery, was an enthusiastic volunteer and was very popular in the Corps.

THE LIGHT DUES COMMISSION.

Mr. Herbert Smith, who is one of the commissioners appointed by the Governor to enquire into the charges levied by the Government on shipping frequenting the waters of the colony, and the expenditure incurred in the interests of shipping, has scored a point on this subject. He at once objected to the waste of time which would be involved in carrying the enquiry into certain directions, such as the amount of the original expenditure on buildings connected with the Harbour Department and Water Police, that of the various lighthouses, the observatory, the launches and boats, Causeway Bay Breakwater, the dredger, and the hospital hulk *Hygieia*, and the proportion of the military contribution, if any, that could be debited to shipping. In a letter to the Government he pointed out that this was obviously beyond the scope of the Secretary of State's suggestion, and would entail endless discussion and prolonged research, and suggested that paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of instructions to the Commission should be referred to Mr. Chamberlain. In reply His Excellency has agreed to waive enquiry on these points, and begs that the Commission will proceed to enquire into the other points with as little delay as possible.

HONGKONG ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, LD.

The annual meeting of this Company was held on the 29th ult., when the report and accounts were adopted *unanimously*. The Chairman in proposing their adoption stated that there had been a steady improvement in the earnings, due chiefly to the increase in the use of the incandescent light, that of the arc lighting being small. He went on to justify the small dividend paid by reminding them that, though they could pay more, they

would have to call up the remainder of the capital to pay for the additional machinery ordered, and would therefore next year have to pay a dividend on a larger capital while the new machinery would not have been working long enough to materially increase the earning power. The other formal business was disposed of, and the meeting dispersed.

NEW BRITISH VICE-CONSUL AT MACAO.

It is stated that Mr. H. Goffe, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul at Macao, has been transferred to Amoy, and that Mr. S. E. Beeton has assumed charge of the Consulate at Macao. The transfer is certainly judicious seeing that, since his unfortunate little social mistake, Mr. Goffe has ceased to be a *persona grata* in the Holy City.

ELECTION OF A DEPUTY FOR MACAO AND TIMOR.

On Sunday last the election of a Deputy to represent the Colonies of Macao and Timor in the Chamber at Lisbon took place. Everything passed off quietly, and the real result will not be made known until the arrival of the next mail from Timor, which will bring the result of the poll there.

THE PAWNSHOP STRIKE AT CANTON.

The pawnshop keepers at Canton have won in their contest with the officials. As reported in my last they closed their establishments on account of the rude treatment and gross extortions to which they had been subjected by the Bannermen, culminating in the action of one named Kao Tsun-yung, whose punishment they demanded. The Magistrate has since sentenced this rowdy to six years' imprisonment, and the authorities have engaged to do their best to put a stop to the annoyances caused by the Bannermen. The pawnshops have accordingly resumed business, re-opening on the 28th ult.

THE WUCHOU LIKIN OFFICIALS.

Now that Wuchou has been declared an open port, the native officials there seem to have set their wits to work to devise methods for destroying all chance of foreign trade. On the 30th May one proclamation was issued from the Likin Office, the effect of which will be to catch every import in the official toils, and on the 26th June another proclamation appeared also designed to hamper trade. The duties on kerosene have been farmed to a native syndicate, and other farms are proposed for piece goods and other staple imports. The natives are evidently afraid to engage to ship direct, and obstacles are clearly being raised in the way of trade with the foreign merchants.

Hongkong, 3rd July.

THE WEEK AND ITS WONDERS.

There is a positive dearth of news this week. The weather has been capricious but fairly cool for July. Amusements are scarce, and, the arrival of a Professor Richard, who claims to effect startling cures by electricity, was hailed as a break in the monotony. On the 11th inst., he gave a demonstration of his system of treatment at the City Hall to a crowded house. He then proceeded to illustrate it by treating several volunteers, who expressed themselves cured. Whether the cure will prove merely temporary or not the future will determine, but the deaf heard, and though the blind man did not see (the Professor said he was in a weak state of health and the current did not work, being too feeble), the rheumatic admitted relief. No doubt the Professor will get further good audiences, for most go to be entertained.

THE NEW CLUB

will be open for the use of members in a fortnight, and the work of moving fixtures is proceeding apace. The old building is already assuming a forlorn and desolate appearance.

THE NEW ROAD AT THE PEAK.

The new road from Victoria Gap to Mount Kellett is now nearing comple-

tion. The cutting is almost finished, and most of the stone walls are erected. The chief work to be done now is to concrete the surface, the side channels having been partly laid. The residents at the Peak are delighted with this improvement, and visitors express equal approval, as they will be enabled to avoid the steep and back-breaking climb to Plunkett's Gap.

AN ACCESSION TO THE OFFICIAL RANKS

is, I hear, in contemplation from the "medicos." Dr. J. C. Thomson, who was for several years the Superintendent and Secretary of the Alice Memorial Hospital, and who was recently appointed Visiting Surgeon of the Tung Wah Hospital, is about to abandon private practice and enter the Government service. He will join the staff under Dr. Atkinson on the 1st proximo. Dr. Thomson is a clever and highly conscientious doctor, having the highest diploma, and will be an acquisition to the Government service.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The movements of men-of-war are now of little interest, being so infrequent and the anchorage so deserted. During the week the only arrival has been that of the British cruiser *Pique*, which came in on the 9th inst. from Singapore. The gunboat *Rattler* left here on the same day for Nagasaki. The Spanish cruiser *Reina Cristina* is still in dock at Hungnam. The gunboat *Plover* will leave here shortly for Singapore to relieve the *Pigmy*, and the storeship *Humber* will sail for Hakodate to meet the cruising squadron early next month.

SAD DEATH AT SWATOW.

Intelligence was received here this morning by wire of the death by drowning of Mr. D. K. Sliman, of Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Co.'s, Swatow. No particulars were given, but it is conjectured that the unfortunate gentleman was drowned while bathing at Double Island. The current there is very strong, and Mr. Sliman was only a moderate swimmer. The news was received with great and general regret, for Mr. Sliman was very popular here and had many friends. He was the possessor of a beautiful tenor voice, now, alas! hushed for ever.

CATTLE PLAGUE IN MACAO.

Some kind of a disease, said to be cattle plague, is raging in Macao. A herd of cattle imported by Mr. Ribeiro from Australia has been almost destroyed, no less than 36 out of 38 having died of the disease. The dairy farm established outside the Porto do Cerco was a thoroughly well-kept establishment and very cleanly. How the disease was introduced is a matter of conjecture.

FLOODS IN KUANGTUNG.

The continued rains caused heavy floods in the West River, and Sante, Nanhai, Samshui, and the Hsinhui districts were inundated, but the water commenced to subside on the 7th inst., and the peasants are now busily engaged in making good the damage done. This was not very serious but a flood which occurred in the Chiaying sub-prefecture was most disastrous. In one place called Nank'ou enormous damage was done, and many persons rendered homeless.

Hongkong, 10th July.

ROWLAND'S ODONTO—This has been known for 60 years to be the best, purest, and most fragrant tooth powder. It whitens the teeth, prevents and arrests decay, strengthens the gums, and gives a pleasing fragrance to the breath. **ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL** preserves and beautifies the hair, and is the best brilliantine for ladies' and children's hair, as it is not too greasy or too drying. Also sold in a golden colour. Ask any chemist or perfumer for Rowland's articles, of 20, Hatton Garden, London.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE TOCHI VALLEY DISASTER.

News of the disaster to British troops in the Tochi Valley, in which Colonel Bunney and two other British officers were killed, reached London to-day, and has brought with it the certainty that we shall not get through this year of rejoicing without a little punitive war. Most of the evening papers in which the disaster is announced appear to be quite ignorant of the geography of the Indian frontier. They describe the slaughter as having occurred in India. There is a section of the Anglo Indian party in this country which has for some time past been raising protests against the policy of establishing military stations in what is really Afghan territory, inhabited by the fiercest of Afghan peoples, although it is by treaty with the Amir under British control. This party will of course find in the disaster a proof of the justice of their protest; but whatever the rights and wrongs of this question may be, no one will dispute the necessity of teaching a severe lesson to the Mullicks.

THE COMING JUBILEE.

At home in this Whitsuntide holiday week, there is little thought but of the coming "Diamond Jubilee." Whit-Monday was wretchedly dull, but the rain kept off, and the open air holiday resorts assumed their usual bank holiday appearance. Weather up to the present has been singularly like that of the Jubilee year, ten years ago—an excess of rain everywhere, a cold June and a constant succession of dull sunless days. From this, many people draw the cheering augury that as the time of the Jubilee Celebration was fine and warm, so will be the time of the Diamond Jubilee.

THE WEATHER AND CRICKET.

Already the change has come. Wednesday was so wet throughout the whole of England that of nine county cricket matches which were in progress not one could be resumed even for a brief period during the day. A record was thus established, not a single ball being bowled in first-class cricket throughout the country. Yesterday, however, the weather improved, and bowlers had a fine time of it on a treacherous wicket. The match between Surrey and Leicester, for which the usual three days were allowed was over before the time for drawing stumps on the first day, Leicester being twice out for twenty-five in each innings, Richardson making the splendid record of twelve wickets for twenty runs. To-day the weather has still further improved and everybody is hoping that the warmth and sunshine will last till Commemoration Day is past.

THE DAY.

People are getting more and more anxious about Commemoration Day. It has been boomed to a far greater extent than the celebration of ten years ago. There is every reason to believe that the crowds of that year will bear no comparison to those of next week. In one sense it is true, the pageant will be a little less interesting. The list of royalties is not so imposing as it was in that year. This, however, is due simply to the natural course of events. Then, many of the great nations of Europe were represented by the heirs-apparent to the thrones. Now most of the heirs-apparent are minors. This, however, is perhaps more than compensated for by the admirable arrangements which have been made for the adequate representation of all the British Colonies and dependencies. The anxiety, however, is with regard to the management of the enormous crowds which will congregate to see the Royal Procession. Some people have estimated the number at as high a figure as eight millions, and although this

is no doubt a very extravagant estimate, it will almost certainly be the biggest crowd which ever gathered to witness a pageant since the world began. We have vividly in remembrance the catastrophe which happened at the distribution of Commemoration Cups at the Czar's coronation; and all the newspapers are impressing on the police the necessity of the most carefully devised precautions. The police regulations which have just been issued show, however, that the authorities have not failed to realise the serious dangers against which they have to guard.

THE TURCO-GREEK QUESTION

seems as far off a settlement as ever. The admirable control in which, until recently, the Turkish troops were kept seems to have broken down at last, and this morning comes news of a violation of the armistice by the burning of Greek villages. Judging by the by-election which has just taken place, however, the electors of Great Britain are not quite so indignant with the lukewarmness of the Government on behalf of Greece as Mr. Gladstone imagined. In the Petersham division of Hampshire, the Unionist candidate has been returned by a majority of 420. It is true that the constituency has of late years been strongly Unionist. In 1895 the Conservative candidate was returned unopposed, and even in 1892, the year of reaction against the Unionists, the Conservative candidate was returned with nine hundred votes to spare; but in 1885, before the Liberal Party split up on the question of Home Rule, a Liberal candidate was returned. The result of the election has been a bitter disappointment to the *Daily Chronicle* and the pro-Greek party generally. They fully expected to win the seat.

DISHONOUR'D GHOSTS.

A bitter controversy between the supporters and opponents of ghosts has been aroused by an article which appeared in the *Times* newspaper a few days ago. It was called "On the Trail of the Ghost," and it described a visit to Ballechin, a shooting seat in Scotland, on an estate belonging to the Marquis of Bute, who is President of the Psychical Research Society. According to the writer, Ballechin had been put forward as more terribly oppressed with ghostly visitations for many years past than any other house in the kingdom; but the author proceeds not only to cast the most scathing ridicule on the methods of investigation pursued by the Psychical Research Society, but to show that until a year or two ago, when there is strong reason to believe that some young people indulged in some practical jokes, ghosts had never been heard of in connection with the building. The members of the Society have come forward in any number in defence of its scientific methods of investigation; but in one case at least have denounced the author as guilty of a serious breach of confidence in publishing his experiences as a guest at Ballechin. The writer has, however, undoubtedly dealt a serious blow at the prestige of the society, which enjoys a reputation as a pseudo-scientific body, and actually numbers some real scientists among its members, in spite of the fact that nine hundred and ninety-nine ghost stories out of a thousand are so utterly foolish that no one with any sense would dream of wasting time on their investigation.

THE DRAMA.

Mr. Sydney Grundy has made a decided hit with his new play *A Marriage of Convenience*. It is true that it is little more than a translation of the elder Dumas's play, produced more than fifty years ago, called *Un Mariage Sous Louis XV.*, but the dialogue is subtle and pleasing, and the play proves far more interesting than the "problem" dramas to which Mr. Grundy, like all our leading dramatists, has devoted himself of late. Another successful

play, a romantic drama of quite the old school, has been produced at the Globe by Mr. David Christie Murray, the novelist, and Mr. John L. Shine, the actor, under the title *An Irish Gentleman*.

11th June.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE DERBY.

Once more the much looked for Derby day is a thing of the past, and contrary to general anticipation the attendance was not greater than usual; there was no "record" crowd in this year of records. The weather was perfect, neither too hot nor too cold, and recent heavy thunderstorms had laid the dust so that the drive down to Epsom was most enjoyable. The favourite won easily as every one prophesied he would, but the enthusiasm displayed was not nearly so great as last year, when the Prince of Wales's colours led the way to victory, and so far as I could see the betting was almost nil. The Prince and Princess of Wales were present and their appearance was the signal for the general singing of the National Anthem, which seemed to be started by some one in the Ring, but was taken up like lightning by the crowd with an enthusiasm which must have been very gratifying to their Royal Highnesses, as it was entirely spontaneous and a sort of reminder of the Jubilee. So much has been written about Derby day crowds in former years that there seems little fresh to say. One policeman remarked in my hearing that it was the quietest Derby he had ever seen. Even in dress there was little that was remarkable. Every one seemed to be reserving themselves for the 22nd. The correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* quotes

ONE INTERESTING EVENT

of the day. Between the races, Stanley, the boy sketcher, plied his craft in front of the Grand Stand. He is only thirteen years old and in addition to being able to sketch any one's portrait on the spot he can portray from memory some 250 familiar faces. While he was at work a well-known peer came and spoke to him, followed by two ladies. They asked him to draw some notable faces which he did with great skill. One of the ladies then said, "Can you draw Ellen Terry? Would you know her if you saw her?" "Rather," said the boy. "Well," replied the lady "it is one of us two." "Yes," said the boy, "not you, the other lady is Miss Terry." Miss Terry then said, "I can draw as well as you, would you like to see me?" Thereupon she took the boy's charcoal and with the greatest ease drew a striking likeness of Mr. Pinero and afterwards a living picture of Sir Henry Irving and initialed each portrait. A tempting offer was made to the boy for the sketches, but he refused it and carried off his treasures in triumph. For him Derby day of 1897 will always be a red-letter day.

THE MILITARY TOURNAMENT

at the Agricultural Hall has been a most brilliant success this year. Crowds are daily turned away both in the afternoon and evening, being unable to obtain admission even to the most expensive seats. The Royal box is constantly full, the Princess of Wales having been present on two occasions. The sight is both graceful and picturesque. The variety of uniforms, from the gorgeous ones worn by the officers in the Imperial Service to the Japanese navy, and the picturesque *khaki* with its bright and dark red facings belonging to the Colonial Contingent, forms a *tout ensemble* which is altogether pleasing to the eye. In strange contrast to all this smartness I noticed at the end of the hall a number of old Chelsea pensioners in their old-world red coats, watching the various feats of skill with the utmost interest in their

weather-beaten faces—watching intently the new orders of things. The Colonial troops are a fine-looking lot of men and seem to enter into all the various "events" in which they take part with the greatest interest. What will probably be regarded as the chief feature of the present tournament is the great military pageant showing the growth and progress of the British Standing Army, from 1704 to 1882. Blenheim, Waterloo, Inkerman, and Tel-el-Kebir are represented, and it is interesting to know that many of what, in theatrical parlance are known as "props" used in the representation at Islington are genuine trophies, and were actually in use on those historic battle fields. As a grand *finale* the whole of the cavalry—Marlborough's, Wellington's, Raglan's, and Wolseley's—charges *à masse* full-tilt up the arena, then reins in suddenly with most wonderful effect "breaking off" and "rallying" as it rides out amidst enthusiastic applause. The Dyak war dance which follows is a most eerie performance. The men are arrayed in feather cloaks, caps and shields with spears which look most alarmingly dangerous, but they skip about in the most unconcerned way, much after the fashion of Zulus or American Indians. For accompaniment they have a row of gongs and brass pots which make din enough to make one thankful that one does not live in North Borneo—if a war-dance is a daily occurrence. Among the other items of interest I most enjoyed the Musical Ride of the 3rd Dragoon Guards and New South Wales Mounted Rifles. But the tent pegging, lemon cutting and horse jumping were likewise most interesting.

COACHING.

On Friday I was present at the meet of the Four-in-Hand Club in Hyde Park where there was a record gathering of twenty-seven coaches, the usual number I believe being about fifteen or sixteen. Among those present were the Duke of Marlborough, who had the Duchess by his side, the Duke of Portland, Lord Iveagh, the Earl of Ancaster, Lord William Beresford, Sir William Wallace Hozier (who was the first to put in an appearance), Lord Charles Beresford, and many other well-known faces. The weather unfortunately was not propitious at first; as the signal was given to start down came the rain in a heavy downpour, but it did not seem to interfere much with the arrangements, as the ladies quickly donned their shower cloaks and drove off to Hurlingham and Ranelagh where luncheon parties had been arranged with polo to follow, and as the rain was soon over they were rewarded for their bravery. On Saturday the Coaching Club had their first meeting for the season, but they were even less fortunate than the meet of the previous day as the rain was almost continuous. In spite of this they had a brilliant turn out of thirty-three coaches, on this occasion Colonel Alfred Somerset being the first to lead the way.

SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN'S BALLET.

In commemoration matters the Alhambra is determined to be early in the field, and certainly in the ballet "Victoria and Merrie England" they seem to have scored a great success. The *première* was as fine a night as any ever seen at Covent Garden. The music is by Sir Arthur Sullivan and is most tuneful throughout. The ballet is in eight *tableaux* beginning with the Druids, with whom the history of England is supposed to commence. Druidesses in white robes disport themselves. Britannia asleep on a bank is awakened to her future by the "Genius of Britain," who appears in a very short skirt, while the band plays Rule Britannia; next there is a coming of age in the days of Queen Bess; then a real old-fashioned May day with a May Pole; then

a bean feast on the Terrace at Hampton Court with old English dances; next there is a demon scene with Herne the Hunter, and after that a very pretty winter scene with frost and a Yule-log, Christmas dances of the olden days, Father Christmas just as the children dream of him covered with frost and snow, and after this the ballet comes to the present reign and we have the Coronation of the Queen; then a huge display—a mixture of army and navy and Victorian ballet girls dancing and singing and marching in the most gorgeous costumes imaginable. So deafening was the applause that greeted the conclusion of the first representation that it is safe to predict that this will be one of the great attractions of the Jubilee week.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

I went a few days ago to see *My Friend the Prince* at the Garrick Theatre—it is very amusing and very well put on the stage. The Prince of Pannonia for reasons best known to himself is lost and for other reasons two other men dress in his uniform and pretend they are he—he being in the house where the action takes place all the time in the capacity of private secretary. Plot there is practically none, but the situations created by the various mistakes that occur are so amusing as to be the excuse for a good laugh, which seems the main object in most of the plays of the present day. Last Saturday the Prince and Princess of Wales journeyed down to Canterbury to open the restored Chapter-house of the Cathedral, and on Monday by special invitation of the Dean Sir Henry Irving read selections from Tennyson's "Becket" in the self-same Chapter-house to an audience of some five or six hundred people, on the spot where Becket fell. There are people who say that Irving is an actor who bereft of stage accessories would make no mark, that only by the wonderful way in which he staged his pieces will he be remembered by future generations; but those who had the privilege of listening to him last Monday must surely change this opinion if ever they held it, as the actor had not been reading for five minutes ere the spell of his genius had asserted its sway—concentrating their attention as he brought each character to life. Not a single character, no matter of how slight an import, but was embodied and done justice to. Time after time was the reading interrupted with outbursts of applause and many an eye was dim as the actor brought vividly home to each the inherent pathos of the Archbishop's end, and—to my mind the greatest tribute an actor can have—when the reading ceased, for some seconds the audience remained silent, overcome with sorrow as they realised, possibly for the first time, the tragedy that had been enacted on that very spot so many hundreds of years ago, but this silence was speedily followed by applause so genuine and so prolonged that Sir Henry must have felt amply repaid for what must have been no light task even for him.

J. K.

4th June.

"If the blood is diseased the body is diseased."—Remember that the blood, whether pure or impure, circulates through the organs of the human body—Lungs, Heart, Stomach, Kidneys, Brain. If it is laden with poisonous matter it spreads disease in its course. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A PARLIAMENTARY SCANDAL.

It is difficult for foreign observers of the French people not to be struck by the very small amount of respect they pay to their public officials. Ministers, for instance, are generally supposed to stop short at nothing when their portfolios are attacked. The average deputy is regarded as an office-seeker supported by the State at the rate of 25 francs a day. Judges and magistrates, who all depend on the Government for their official advancement, inspire very little faith in their independence. At first one sees no ground for this universal distrust, but experience of the working of French institutions is calculated to lead to a change of opinions. Events occur from time to time which tend to foster this want of confidence. As an instance I may cite an incident that occurred on Saturday in the Chamber of Deputies. A vote had been taken on a motion implying want of confidence in the Government, and when the reckoning was made in the usual way by the secretaries, by merely counting the voting-papers without examining them, the government appeared to have a majority of only five votes. After all the papers had been checked, however, the majority was found to be 35. This circumstance was not in itself very remarkable. It often happens that a deputy, after having placed his paper in the urn, changes his mind and votes again in the contrary sense, or instructs a colleague to do so for him, with the result that both votes are treated as null and void. Each deputy, it should be explained, is supplied with a number of blue and of white voting papers with his name printed on them. The white paper is used in voting for the motion before the Chamber, and the blue paper for voting against it. It is not necessary that a member should himself place his vote in the urn. The leader of a group has been known to keep all his henchmen's voting papers in his own desk and plump fifteen or twenty votes at a time into the urn. As a consequence of this system it is quite an ordinary occurrence to find more papers in the urns than there are members present. The unpleasant feature about Saturday's proceedings was that several members, whose blue papers were simultaneously placed in the urn in support of the Government, afterwards found that white papers bearing their names had been placed in the other urn without their consent, thereby cancelling their votes. Evidently some unscrupulous colleague or colleagues had helped himself to their papers. The President, when appealed to on Monday, glossed the affair over by saying, in effect, that mistakes will happen. For the credit of the assembly, no one cared to pursue the matter any further and it was allowed to drop. Of course it is not a crime to attempt to defeat the Government, but it ought to be done as far as possible in a regular way.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WAR.

Now that the fighting in Greece is practically over and the foreign correspondents are freed from the censorate exercised over their telegrams, we are beginning to find out what the war really was. The correspondent of the *Matin*, writing from Volo, describes it as a mere military promenade. There were, he says, only two encounters of any consequence: at the Meluna Pass and before Domokos. Even these affairs were much less important than they were represented to be. The stories of the heroic Greeks beating back two bayonet charges of the Turks are not founded on fact, for, according to the correspondent, who followed the whole campaign with the Turkish staff,

there was not a single fight at close quarters. The Greeks generally retreated without waiting for the Turks to storm their entrenchments. At Domokos the Turks fought all day in an exposed situation and had only 1,200 men killed and wounded, such was the erratic nature of the enemy's fire. During the night the Greeks once more retreated. Edhem's laurels were very easily earned. Any army but that of the Crown Prince could have resisted for a long time either at the Meluna Pass, at Larissa, at Domokos (a very strong position), at the Furka pass, or at Lamia. The best proof that the Greeks abandoned the idea of effectual resistance after they were driven from the Meluna Pass is that the entire campaign cost the Turks only 4,000 men killed and wounded. The Ottoman army is by no means the formidable fighting force it has been represented to be. The men are undoubtedly brave but undisciplined and wretchedly equipped. There is no commissariat or transport corps worthy the name. Edhem Pasha had to wait a week at Tekke before he received the provisions and ammunition necessary to enable him to continue his advance. After the fighting at Velestino the artillery ammunition was reduced to five rounds per gun. The utmost confusion prevailed in every department of the military administration. The commander-in-chief's staff was largely composed of favourites advanced by Palace influence. Some of Edhem's generals were only 30 years of age. The soldiers and under officers, badly clothed and worse fed, of course looted right and left whenever an opportunity occurred. Incendiarism was frequent and most of the churches in Thessaly were destroyed. Every town and village (except Volo, which was saved by the intervention of the foreign consuls) in the track of the Turkish army was reduced to ruins. Competent observers estimate the loss sustained by private individuals at four millions sterling.

THEATRICAL.

Eleanora Duse, the Italian *tragédienne*, has made her *début* in Paris this week with complete success. Although she directly challenged comparison with Sarah Bernhardt on the opening night by appearing in *La Dame aux Camélias*, a play that every Parisian theatre-goer knows by heart, M^{me}. Duse made an unmistakable sensation and is admitted on all hands to be a great *artiste*. She is to be followed at the Renaissance by Sir Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry. In my last letter I remarked on the probability of the great English actor playing at a Boulevard theatre, without suspecting that his visit would so soon be an accomplished fact.

4th June.

"The Health and Vigour of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the blood. When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these be not eliminated but (through any cause) detained in the blood they influence nutrition and function and finally produce organic disease."—*The Humanitarian*. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere, at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

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Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

Specially translated for the North-China Herald.

25th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Board of Punishments is commanded to make a strict investigation into the case of the common soldier Tu Lin who appealed to us yesterday morning while we were on our way to Eho Park.

(2) T'ao Mu commends in eulogistic phrases the patriotism and benevolence of Tung Fu-hsiang, our Provincial Commander-in-Chief in Kansu. He states that the said General seeing the great distress of the people inhabiting the districts of Haich'eng and Pingyuan who were the first to suffer from the ravages of the rebels during the late Mohammedan rebellion, at once gave Tls. 10,000 to the civil authorities to buy grain and agricultural implements and cattle for the sufferers. Such an act of philanthropy ought not to pass unrecognised and we therefore command the Board of War to consider some adequate reward to the said General as a mark of the Imperial approval.

(3) Hsieh Yuan is appointed Taotai of the Tung-Shang Intendency of Shensi.

(4) Li Hsi-tu-g, Taotai of the above-named Intendency, is hereby transferred to the Tung-Lai-Ching Intendency of Shantung (Chief of Taotai ship).

(5) Li Kuang-chiu is appointed Tao ai of the Feng Yun-Lu-Sze Intendency of Anhui (Fengyang Taotai ship).

26th May.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang, Minister of the Tsungli Yamèn, was granted one month's sick leave by his Majesty this morning.

No papers of interest.

27th May.

No papers of interest.

28th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ngèh Lé-ch'un is appointed Brigade General of the Manchu garrison of Kuang-ning, Kiangsu province.

(2) Tai Ngao is appointed Senior Director of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

29th May.

No papers of interest.

30th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Sung Fan, Viceroy of the Yun-Kuei provinces, denounces in severe language the conduct of Lei Chia-ch'un, Colonel Commandant of the territorial battalions garrisoning the city of Lingping and districts surrounding the said city, and his subordinate officers for: 1st—pocketing the pay of the men under them; 2nd—for reducing the strength of the various battalions and keeping "dummies" on the regimental rolls; 3rd—for keeping the arms of the troops in a wretched condition, and, 4th—for going about and leaving their posts at will. Such conduct should be visited with condign punishment and we hereby cashier the said Colonel Lei Chia-ch'un, and his subordinates the First Captains Li K'un-yung, Yang Chih-tsing, and Ma Ch'i-lan; and the Lieutenant-Colonels Liu Hsiu-ho and Yang Tsai-mao. All the above-named officers together with the previously cashiered ex-Major Yang Ch'un-t'ai, are further hereby ordered to be banished to the military post-roads in Chinese Turkestan to expiate their crimes there. As for the said Viceroy we com-

mend him for his boldness and diligence in his duties in denouncing the cashiered officers and he is therefore excused, by special grace, from being relegated to the Boards for penalties in permitting such discreditable conduct within his jurisdiction.

(2) With reference to the above decree Tsou Hsi-g-lin, Taotai of the Ling-An-K'ai-Kuang Intendency of Yunnan; Liu Chun-lin, prefect of K'ai-huafu; Liu Wan-ch'un, Brigadier General of Lingyuan, and Kao Tè-yu, Colonel of Lingyuan, are hereby pardoned and excused from penalties for their diligence in their duties and determination in reporting the disgraceful condition of affairs in the territorial battalions at Li-g'ping, etc., to the said Viceroy.

31st May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chou K'eh-k'uan is appointed Chief, and Yü K'un, Assistant, Literary Chancellor of Yunnan for the ensuing year.

(2) Tu P'en-shun is appointed Chief, and Ch'en Pèh-t'ao, Assistant, Literary Chancellor of Kueichou for the ensuing year.

1st June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1). We have received the annual report of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, of the Hu-kwang provinces, on the conduct of the local authorities and magistrates of the cities under the said Viceroy's jurisdiction, and we note that the said Viceroy praises some while, on the other hand, he denounces others who he considers should be punished. Of the first class, Ting Kuo-c'en, sub-prefect of Mienyang; Li Chin-chiang, *chihhsien* of Tsino yang; Chang Chi-ch'ing, substantive *chihhsien* of Mach'eng and acting *chihhsien* of Chianglin, and Ch'en Ch'ang-chiang, *chihhsien* of Yitu, are eulogised by Chang Chih-tung as fine examples of honest, energetic and benevolent-minded officials from whom the people under them may reap the advantages which come from just and equitable rule. The said Viceroy sincerely believes that with time and experience the four officers will be an ornament to the higher spheres to which their talents and probity will, in future, bring them without fail, etc. Let the marks of our Imperial approval be sent to the officers above-named with our earnest hope that with the confidence they have now obtained from their highest superior officer they will show increased energy and diligence in their duties so as to deserve the eulogy pronounced on them by the said Viceroy. Let them not follow the example of some unfortunate officers who showed energy and talent at the commencement of their careers yet wound up with a name for incorrigible laziness. The said Viceroy further gives a list of the officers who have disappointed him, and broken the rules of honesty, and made themselves generally unfit for the duties to which they had been appointed, viz.:—Wang Yi-hsin, former *chihhsien* of Jenhsien and Ho Pao-hsin, an expectant *chihhsien* and formerly acting sub-prefect of Mienyang. These two are the worst, as reported by the said Viceroy, and we therefore, command them to be instantly cashiered and dismissed from any post they may now be holding. As for Yang Chung-ts'ao, *chihhsien* of Chenchianghsien, he is hereby commanded to be dismissed from his post and to be further degraded to the rank of recorder in a prefect's *yamèn*, or an assistant *chihhsien* (8th rank). The expectant *chihhsien* Li Yu-k'uan is also to be degraded to the rank of a police magistrate (9th rank). As for Hsü Yao-li, formerly acting *chihhsien* of Chuhsien, and Yü Ping-hsin, substantive *chihhsien* of Kungshanien and formerly acting *chihhsien* of Tungshhsien, they having shown incapability of govern-

ment, but being men of high literary rank, are hereby ordered to resign their present rank and service in exchange for that of director of studies in district magistracies and await appointment at the hands of the Board of Rites. The other recommendations in the said Viceroy's memorial are granted as usual.

(2). The 22nd day of the current month (21st June), being the occasion of the summer solstice we shall go in person to offer special sacrifice at the Altars dedicated to Earth and the Rain-god and we hereby command P'u Ching to act as Inspector of the sacrificial animals while K'un Hsiu (both Vice-Presidents of one of the Six Boards) shall examine the entrails of the said sacrificial animals in connection with the above named rites.

2nd June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chou Kuang-k'uan is hereby appointed Chief Literary Chancellor for the province of Yunnan, and Sung K'un is appointed Assistant Literary Chancellor thereof.

(2) Tu P'en-chang is appointed Chief Literary Chancellor, and Ch'en Pèh-tao, Assistant Literary Chancellor, of the province of Kueichou.

3rd June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ü Hsiu, President of the Mongolian Superintendency, is hereby appointed Examiner-in-chief of Archery, on foot and on horse-back, of the Banner candidates for the degree of *chajên* (provincial graduate) at the forthcoming competitions.

(2) Yi Lieh is appointed Chief Proctor at the said competitions.

(3) We have received the memorial of the Censor Yang Ch'ung-yi who complains of the great scarcity of copper cash throughout the Empire, in consequence of which copper cash has become exceedingly dear in the exchange markets. The great trouble lies in the fact that though the purchasing power of the said copper cash has thereby become correspondingly increased, the prices of grain, meat and food generally instead of declining as might be expected, have also become proportionately—at the rate of one in four—higher than when cash was normal. The price of copper cash thus becomes enhanced a little over twenty per cent above its normal level. Grain for instance formerly priced at 2,000 cash per picul should by rights have been purchasable at the rate of 1,600 cash; but instead of this people have to pay 2,250 cash per picul. Thus through scarcity of this medium of exchange the poor people of the country have to suffer both in the dearth of money as well as in enhanced prices of provisions. This sad condition of affairs the Censor assures us is universal throughout the Empire, and he therefore prays that strict commands be forthwith issued to the Viceroys and Governors of provinces to re-open the old mints which have been closed for many years within their several jurisdictions, and where there have been none that new mints be established in order that a free supply be given to the people of this Empire.

The said Censor further denounces the people in charge of the government mint in the Southern City of the capital and states that the word "mint" in their case is but a hollow name, etc. The Board of Revenue is commanded to investigate the whole matter as presented by the said Censor and report to us at an early date.

(4) We have received a memorial from Pien Pao-ch'u n, Vice-oy of the provinces of Fukien and Ch'iang, asking that instructions may be sent to the newly-appointed Provincial Judge of Fukien to hasten to take up his post as there are considerable arrears in the duties of the said post which a mere Acting Judge has no authority to settle, etc. With regard to

the above, the said newly-appointed Provincial Judge, Li Hsing-jui, when at his farewell audience with us the other day was granted one month's leave to return to his native city to repair the dilapidated graves of his ancestors. We hereby command Li Hsing-jui to make no more delay on the road to Foochow upon the expiration of his month's leave, but journey post-haste to his new post.

(5) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

4th June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Kuan Ting-hsien is appointed Governor of the Metropolitan or Peking Circuit.

5th June.

No papers of interest.

6th June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

(1) Ying Lin, Military Governor of the Jehu territory is hereby ordered to remain at Peking and await other appointment at Court.

(2) Heng Chi is hereby appointed Military Governor of the Jehu territory, *vice* Ying Lin retained at Court.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, the 6th of July, 1897, at 4.30 p.m.

Present.—Messrs. A. R. Burkill (Chairman), F. Anderson, J. S. Fearon, E. A. Hewet, Rev. J. R. Hykes, Messrs. J. Prentice, M. Rohde, J. Welch, and the Acting Secretary.

The *Summons* calling the meeting is taken as read.

The *Minutes* of last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of prisoners apprehended and police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Sanitary Department.—Report by the Health Officer, and Municipal Surgeon, for June, is submitted.

No unusual features.

Electrical Department.—Report by the Superintendent is submitted, giving particulars of the works completed during June, and of those still in progress.

Native Livery Stables.—Report for June, by the Inspector is submitted stating that the different stables have been visited regularly during the past month and were found in good sanitary condition, and all the ponies in good health.

585 carriage, and 741 ponies have been licensed for July, showing an increase on the figures of last year.

4,128 jinrikshas, and 4,042 wheelbarrows have been licensed for the current month.

Market Inspector's Report for June is submitted.

This report presents no features of unusual interest beyond two large seizures of snipe in native shops. A fine of \$30 was inflicted on licensed butcher, Audre, Pak-hoi road, for exposing for sale 54lbs. of beef unfit for human food.

Sanitary Proclamation.—The annexed correspondence is ordered to be published:

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 24th June, 1897.

SIR,—Certain of the southern ports having, as you are aware, been declared infected by

the Plague, it becomes the duty of the Council to take every possible precaution in the interests of the public health. To this end, a notification has been issued in the native and foreign press, informing the public of the outbreak in the south, and calling on all residents to assist the work of the Sanitary Inspector by joining in a general cleansing of the Settlement. The Mixed Court Magistrate will also be requested to issue a proclamation directing attention to the above notice, and calling upon native residents to follow its instructions. Finally, some 30,000 printed slips, embodying the terms of the Notification, are now in process of distribution in those quarters where unsanitary conditions chiefly prevail.

As it is extremely desirable that the native authorities should be associated with the Council in the protection of the public health, and as it is in the condition of the native city and of Sinza that exists the greatest source of danger in the event of any epidemic, the Council, following the course adopted by its predecessors in 1894, would now ask the kind assistance of the Consular Body in obtaining from H.E. the Taotai a proclamation which shall instruct the native population in those places to adopt sanitary measures similar to those enjoined by the Council.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. R. BURKILL,
Chairman.

To O. STUEBEL, Esq.,
Consul-General for Germany
and Senior Consul, Shanghai.

Shanghai, 29th June, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24th June, requesting the assistance of the Consular Body in obtaining from H.E. the Taotai a Proclamation enforcing sanitary measures in the native city and Sinza on the line adopted by the Council within the Settlement for the protection against the outbreak of plague.

The matter was considered by the Consular Body in a recent meeting and the suggestion of the Council has been warmly recommended to the Taotai.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

O. STUEBEL,
Consul-General for Germany
and Senior Consul.

To A. R. BURKILL, Esq.,
Chairman of the Municipal Council.

Shanghai, 6th July 1897.

SIR,—In pursuance of my letter of June 29th with reference to your requesting the assistance of the Consular body in obtaining from his excellency the Taotai a proclamation enforcing sanitary measures in the native city and Sinza on the line adopted by the Council within the settlement for the protection against the outbreak of plague I have the honour to enclose herewith translation of a letter from the Taotai in which he states that he has issued the necessary proclamations.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

O. STUEBEL,
Consul-General for Germany
and Senior Consul.

To A. R. BURKILL, Esq.,
Chairman, Municipal Council.

Taotai to Senior Consul.

Shanghai, 4th July, 1897.

SIR,—Yesterday I had the honour to receive your letter in which you inform me that certain of the southern ports having been declared infected by the Plague every possible precaution was to be taken and that to this end a notification had been issued in the Settlement calling for a general cleansing of the roads and thoroughfares. Because it is in the condition of the Native City and of Sinza that exists the greatest source of danger a general cleansing ought to be instituted at these places and you requested me to issue a proclamation to this effect.

Negotiations have taken place already between me and the Commissioner of

Customs with a view of putting into operation all the ordinary precautionary measures against a possible outbreak of plague, but as these are only intended against the spreading of the disease by steamers arriving from infected ports it will also be necessary to adopt means which will be a safeguard against a possible outbreak in this port. While these were still under discussion your letter arrived enclosing the Council's notification, a clear proof to me of the interest the Consular Body take in the general welfare of the public health.

I have issued now the proclamation and given the necessary instructions to the Shanghai Magistrate and the Local Authorities ordering them to show all their energy in taking action.

I have, etc.,

Card of Taotai LIU.

To Dr. O. STUEBEL,
Consul-General for Germany
and Senior Consul.

Municipal Council,
Shanghai, 8th July, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 6th instant, enclosing translation of a Proclamation by the Taotai which orders the enforcement of sanitary measures in the native city and in the Sinza district. In reply, I have to request that you will convey to the Consular Body the Council's thanks for its assistance in obtaining the issue of this document.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. R. BURKILL,
Chairman.

To O. STUEBEL, Esq.,
Consul-General for Germany
and Senior Consul, Shanghai.

Yuhang Road Extension.—The following correspondence is ordered to be published:

Municipal Council,
Shanghai, 1st July, 1897.

SIR,—The Council has for some time past been endeavouring to arrange for the extension of the Yuhang Road, east of the Hongkew Creek, and the owners of Cad. Lots 819, 820A and 821 have agreed to surrender free of cost to the public use the portions of their properties required for a 30-foot road.

I now beg to forward you herewith a tracing which shows the strip of Lot 473, U.S.C., (cadast. Lot 820), required for the purposes of this road extension. This strip measures 0m. 7f. 71. 0h.

The Council is prepared to pay all expenses for taking down and rebuilding the houses on the line of road, which it is understood will amount to Tls. 400 inclusive, and trusts that Mr. Chu Yu-chee, in common with the other proprietors, will present to the public the land required for this extension.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

To CHUN FAI-TING, Esq.,
Agent for CHU YU-CHEE, Esq.

Shanghai, 5th July 1897.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 1st instant asking Mr. Chu Yu Chee to present to the public a strip of land measuring about 0m 7f 71. 0h, for the purpose of extending the Yuhang Road and informing him that the Council is prepared to pay all expenses of taking down and rebuilding the houses on the line of the road amounting to Tls. 400 inclusive, I beg to inform you that Mr. Chu Yu Chee is willing to give up the land upon which a portion of the 9 houses as marked on the tracing which I herewith return stands, the land of the other house required to be surrendered is so little that he does not think it necessary to disturb the houses.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your faithfully,

CHUN FAI-TING.

To J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,
Acting Secretary, Municipal Council.

Shanghai Museum.—The following correspondence is ordered to be published:—

Amusements.

POLLARD'S LILLIPUTIAN COMPANY.

Notwithstanding the counter-attraction of the French National Fête on Wednesday evening, there was a very good attendance at the Lyceum Theatre to welcome the re-appearance of Pollard's clever juvenile troupe. The opera chosen for the opening of the second season in Shanghai was the ever-welcome *Les Cloches de Corneville*, and it was wonderful to witness the energy and brisk determination with which it was carried through by all on the stage, principals and chorus, in spite of the fact that the thermometer was away up in the nineties, and that the sultry westerly wind was depressing enough to effectively destroy the energy of the adult audience, who had only the pleasant task before them of admiring and applauding the acting and singing of the delightful juveniles who appeared on the stage.

Miss Elsie Norwood was again charming as the Marquis, and sang very well indeed, securing continual encores. Miss Connie Pollard did her best with the unsuitable part of Grenicheux, and Master Willie Stewart will no doubt make more of the part of the Bailie when he becomes more familiar with it as his rendering of it was promising. The vivacity of Miss Annie Moore as Serpolette was, under the trying circumstances of the weather, beyond all praise, and her charming acting, excellent by-play, and correct singing went very far towards securing the success of the opera. Miss Ina Pollard gave her usual neat and successful portrayal of the part allotted to her, and her diminutive size made the representation of Germaine very quaint. The village lads and lasses were most adequately represented by the strength of the Company, but *Les Cloches de Corneville* will remain specially in the minds of the audience by the really superb acting of Master Alfred Goulding as the miser Gaspard. The make-up, by-play, expression, and diction were remarkable, and would have done credit to a life-long study of the part, and yet the juvenile genius who played the part is a lad of about eleven years of age. It is needless to say that he was loudly applauded throughout, and it is certain that he deserved the call before the curtain that he received at the conclusion of the second act. Another juvenile who deserves a special word of praise is little Master John Murphy, who played the part of Gobo. This lad, who is the son of a Shanghai resident, was apprenticed to Mr. Pollard when the troupe were last in Shanghai, and it is little short of marvellous that the boy could have so soon learned the business of the stage as his most excellent representation of the part showed was the case. The tuition must have been as good as the lad's dramatic instincts are remarkable, for his stage business was extremely good and funny, and his grotesque dance in the third act more than creditable.

Several dances were given on Wednesday, all well done, and every one of them was re-demanded and kindly repeated. Nearly all the songs were encored, also, and it becomes a question whether the Proprietor, or Stage Manager, should allow this incessant repetition during this hot weather. The cleverness of the juveniles excites hearty applause, which is well deserved and is no doubt gratifying to them, but it must be a sufficiently hard task for the children to go through a long opera this weather, without being called upon to repeat a good deal of their hard work. If the Proprietor made it a hard and fast rule that encores

would not be accepted, the majority of the audience, knowing the reason for it, would cheerfully accept and obey such a rule, for to do otherwise would be nothing but selfishness.

Last night the company played *Dorothy*, the piece that originally introduced Shanghai theatre-goers to the merits of the Lilliputian troupe. The house was fairly well filled and the opera was rendered with much spirit throughout. The cast was a strong one, taking in most of the young people who have won a name in Shanghai. Amongst their must specially be mentioned Miss Elsie Norwood and Miss Jessie Ford as Dorothy Bantam and Lydia Hawthorne, as both of them sang and acted extremely well. They were most ably supported by Miss Connie Pollard as Geoffrey Wilder and Miss Annie Moore as Harry Sherwood, but the latter was very hoarse, and after a gallant attempt to get through one verse of *Queen of my Heart* had to give it up, though thundering applause showed how the audience appreciated the effort made. Master Alfred Goulding was immense as Lurcher, and his treatment of the part showed that he is a splendid low comedian, youngest though he may be. The Priscilla of Miss Lily Stewart was a very commendable performance, the scene between her and Lurcher having been capital done. As Squire Bantam Master Willie Stewart was also good and his song took the fancy of the audience. *Dorothy* is evidently an opera better within the reach of the juveniles than some others they try, so that the concerted pieces were given with good effect and the songs were successfully delivered. The inevitable encores were loudly insisted upon, chiefly by the occupants of the gallery, but not to the same extent as on Wednesday. Tonight the Company play *Pingfong*, which proved so attractive when previously given, and to-morrow *Boccaccio* is billed for the first time, and should draw a bumper house.

CRICKET.

SHANGHAI RECREATION CLUB v. "SPORT AND GOSSIP'S" XI.

The Shanghai Recreation Club on Saturday gained a decisive victory over *Sport and Gossip's* XI, having at the drawing of stumps an advantage of 34 runs, with only four wickets down. The chief reason for this, perhaps, was the indifferent fielding of the visitors, catches being missed which afterwards proved very expensive. *Sport and Gossip* won the toss and began the batting at twenty-five minutes to three. The team were all disposed of for the moderate total of 126, Coutts being the highest individual scorer with a vigorously played 33. For some time after the Recreation Club began batting runs came very slowly, and with three wickets down for 33 matters looked fairly even. But then with the partnership of Griffin and H. Veitch the scoring was a good deal accelerated. In spite of changes of bowling the requisite number of runs to win the match were obtained before they were separated. H. Veitch played well for 61, whilst Griffin was not-out 45 when play ceased for the day. Full score and analysis:

"SPORT AND GOSSIP."

J. Mann, c. T. Veitch, b. Griffin	10
R. C. Farbridge (Capt.), b. Griffin	10
W. J. Tyack, c. Withington, b. Möller	22
E. W. Maitland, b. Möller	7
G. D. Coutts, b. H. Veitch	33
A. R. Leake, b. T. Wallace	14
W. Bates, b. H. Veitch	20
A. L. Hall, c. Withington, b. T. Wallace	0
J. H. O'Dowd, b. H. Veitch	3
H. J. Tripp, not-out	2
F. J. Maitland, c. S. Wallace, b. T. Wallace	5

S.R.C.

J. L. Niven, c. Bates, b. Mann	10
N. E. Möller, b. E. W. Maitland	4
T. Veitch, c. Farbridge, b. E. W. Maitland	15
F. Griffin, not-out	45
H. Veitch, c. Tyack, b. E. W. Maitland	61
S. M. Wallace (Capt.), not-out	15
Byes 8, l-b. 2	10

160

T. Wallace, F. C. Goodall, J. W. Withington, J. Gregory, and E. Wheen did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

"SPORT AND GOSSIP."

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Goodall	4	0	21	0
Griffin	13	4	26	2
Möller	10	1	29	2
T. Wallace	9.2	1	20	3
H. Veitch	8	1	29	3

S.R.C.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
J. Mann	18	6	50	1
E. W. Maitland	17	2	51	3
Farbridge	3	0	18	0
Coutts	4	0	24	0
Bates	3	1	7	0

SHANGHAI CRICKET CLUB.

On Saturday afternoon, commencing late on account of the heat, a match was played between the elevens under the captaincy of Mr. Gumpert and Mr. Firth, the following being the scores and analysis:—

MR. FIRTH'S XI.

W. B. Cheetham, b. Darby	0
E. O. Cumming, b. Moule	18
W. L. Richards, c. Sawyer, b. Moule	5
C. Biron, c. Parr, b. Moule	17
A. Woodward, b. Darby	1
E. Nelson, run-out	9
H. E. Campbell, c. Darby, b. Brooks	5
N. E. Cornish, c. Darby, b. Moule	4
G. E. Stewart, b. Brooks	0
E. P. Hudson, b. Brooks	2
C. M. Firth, not-out	0
Byes	2

63

MR. GUMPERT'S XI.

N. J. Stabb, b. Firth	11
E. V. D. Parr, b. Cumming	1
S. L. Darby, b. Cumming	1
A. J. H. Moule, c. Cumming, b. Firth	19
R. E. Brooks, c. Firth, b. Cornish	13
F. H. Sawyer, not-out	27
G. A. Matthews, st. Biron, b. Nelson	7
E. des Vœux, b. Firth	9
Byes 8; l-b. 6; w-b. 1	15

103

J. E. Denham and E. Gumpert did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

MR. FIRTH'S XI.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Darby	9	1	29	2
A. J. H. Moule	13.1	2	28	4
Brooks	5	4	4	3

MR. GUMPERT'S XI.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Firth	16.3	5	29	3
Cumming	7	2	8	2
Cornish	3	0	27	1
Nelson	3	0	15	1
Hudson	3	1	9	0

Cornish bowled a wide.

THE SHANGHAI YACHT CLUB.

THE 2½ RATERS.

The course for Saturday's race was a down-river one, the stake-boat being moored near the Kajao Creek, the distance being sixteen miles. The wind was from the S.S.W., and of the 2½-raters the *Spoondrift* had taken in a reef, the *Lorna* and *Violet* carrying full sail. The *Lorna*, sailed by her owner, Mr. G. E. Burgoyne, had matters comparatively all her own way after rounding the Pootung point. Rounding the stake-boat the *Spoondrift* was second, but in the heat back along the Hongkew side she was passed by the *Violet*, which, however, could not catch the *Lorna*. In the Handicap class five boats competed, the following being the times:—

<i>Lorna</i>	6h. 21m. 10s.
<i>Violet</i>	6h. 26m. 39s.
<i>Spoondrift</i>	6h. 29m. 40s.
<i>Coronella</i>	6h. 31m. 35s.
<i>Idaho</i>	6h. 34m. 30s.
<i>Ella</i>	6h. 35m. 10s.
<i>Henrietta</i>	6h. 39m. 18s.
<i>Lamb</i>	6h. 55m. 02s.

Upon the handicap, which was as follows:
Ella and *Idaho*, allow ..2min. to *Henrietta*.
 " " " ..5min. " *Coronella*.
 " " " ..6min. " *Lamb*.
 the result was—

	Corrected time.
<i>Coronella</i>	2h. 41m. 35s.
<i>Idaho</i>	2h. 49m. 30s.
<i>Ella</i>	2h. 50m. 10s.
<i>Henrietta</i>	2h. 52m. 18s.
<i>Lamb</i>	3h. 04m. 02s.

Four "flappers" competed in that class, the start being at 3.30, and the course the same as for the other boats. The first to cross the line was the *Mertin*, next being the *Sibyl*, the *Leven*, and the *Madcap*.

The *Leven* kept close in round the Pootung Point and was followed by the *Mertin*, but by the time Boyd & Co.'s property was abeam she shot out across to join the *Sibyl* and *Madcap*. The wind fell light going down through the shipping but there was no material change in the positions of the yachts. The *Leven* and *Mertin*, however, appeared to be going away from the others.

The following was the order at the stake-boat:—

<i>Leven</i>	4h. 35m. 00s.
<i>Mertin</i>	4h. 35m. 45s.
<i>Sibyl</i>	4h. 37m. 00s.
<i>Madcap</i>	4h. 39m. 00s.

It was a dead beat back against the last of the ebb to the Point House. The *Sibyl* having overhauled the *Mertin* went on in pursuit of the *Leven* which was still making the pace. At the Halfway Point the *Madcap* overhauled the *Mertin* but standing on too long inshore went aground, but came off at once. The wind had now freshened considerably so that full sail was a much too liberal spread of canvas, and the *Sibyl* got very badly ashore. Despite strenuous efforts by those on board she could not be got off until her sails were lowered, an operation that took much too long, so that by the time she was again under way, the other yachts were at the Plague Station. This rendered her hopelessly out of the race, in which she took no further part. The *Leven* came home winner while the *Mertin* beat the *Madcap* for second place.

The following were the times at the finish:—

<i>Leven</i>	6h. 40m. 23s.
<i>Mertin</i>	6h. 59m. 05s.
<i>Madcap</i>	7h. 01m. 30s.

The points to date are as follows:—

<i>Mertin</i>	17 points.
<i>Leven</i>	12 "
<i>Sibyl</i>	5 "
<i>Madcap</i>	2 "

SHOOTING.

"C" CO. MONTHLY CUP.

The Monthly Cup Competition of "C" Co. took place at the Rifle Range on Wednesday and resulted in a win for the first time for Private V. Launing. A stiff wind blowing, and a nasty glare on the targets, made shooting somewhat difficult for high scoring. Appended are a few of the scores:—

	200 yds.	300 yds.	G. Total.
Priv. V. Launing.....	24	24	48
" D. G. Cumming.....	25	23	48
" Zihm	21	23	44
Lieut. Whittall	24	19	43

Poetry.

KULING.

(Contributed to the "North-China Daily News.")

Up to the Kuling heights
 Higher and higher;
 Far from the red-hot plain,
 Brimstone and fire!
 Up to the blue-bell land,
 Fountains and streams:
 Is it a fairy's wand
 Gives me such dreams?

Where do the Chinese live?
 Far, far away.
 How do the babies thrive?
 Happy all day.
 No more mosquito nets.
 No more sun-hats.
 As for your doctor's stuff,
 Give it the cats.

Kuling's a cooling place,
 Where man can work,
 Hindered by nobody,
 Chinese or Turk:
 Then, when the day is done,
 Sleep like a bear.
 Wake up quite frisky-like,
 Thanks to the air.

DIAMOND.

Miscellaneous.

THE FRENCH NATIONAL FÊTE.

The French Concession was *en fête* on Wednesday in honour of the Fourteenth of July. The Bund was very tastefully decorated with flags and lanterns, and looked exceedingly well. The French mail steamer *Océanien* and the China Navigation Co.'s steamers were dressed, but none of the men-of-war made any display, owing to there being no French man-of-war in harbour.

Shortly before 8 a.m. the French Volunteers mustered in the grounds of the Municipal Hall, and headed by the Town Band, marched to the French Consulate-General, where they took part in the ceremony of hoisting the tricolour.

At 11 o'clock Count de Bezaure held a reception, at which most of the Consular body and a large number of others, civilians and officials, attended.

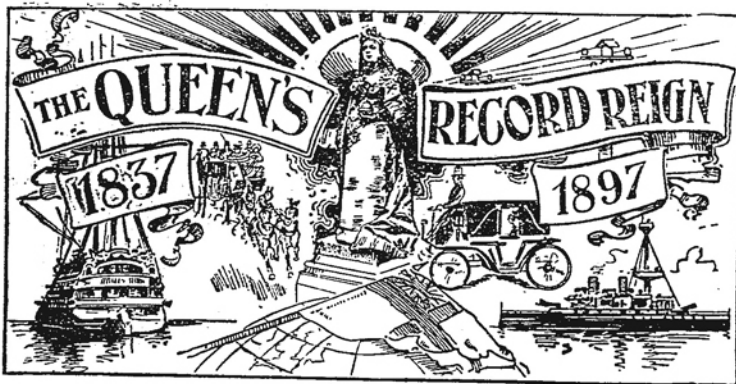
The usual patriotic addresses were given by Count de Bezaure, M. E. Bard, Chairman of the French Municipal Council, and others, after which several equally patriotic toasts were drunk with great enthusiasm. The band of l'Harmonie played some excellent selections on the verandah during the proceedings.

At nine o'clock in the evening a most charming fête was given by the Consul-General of France, the Count de Bezaure, and the French Council in the magnificent Hall and gardens of the French municipality. The gardens, in which the Town Band was playing under the direction of Commander Vela, were lit up by hundreds of Japanese lanterns most artistically arranged, and here the guests promenaded or sat down to listen to an excellent selection of music. The French Consul-General received his guests in the Hall, among them being the Foreign Consuls, almost the whole of the French community, and a large number of foreigners, the large number of ladies present adding brilliance to the scene. The Hall was beautifully decorated, with flags and with garlands and baskets of flowers until it looked like a veritable fairy-land. The Shanghai Taotai, Tsai Taotai, and a large number of other local officials were also present. The buffet, it is needless to say, was most amply provided and it was a night when life itself depended on the constant exhibition of cooling fluids. The French Ship of State would float fearlessly in the refreshments that were absorbed last night. At eleven o'clock the dance was to begin, there being six dances on the programme, but it was warm for dancing. The Marseillaise, taken up with a spirit which might have roused Rouget de Lille from his grave, concluded a splendid day. At intervals, during the night rockets and other fireworks delighted the crowd on the French Bund who were enjoying the illuminations.

One extraordinary incident happened not far from the Municipal Hall, two ladies, who were driving to the fête in an open carriage, being struck with stones thrown at them by some miscreants in the crowd, whom it was impossible to identify.

SERIOUS FIRE.

A serious conflagration broke out at about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the Ching Chong match factory, on the Singkeipang Creek. The fire originated in the dipping room and was caused by one of the workpeople treading on some loose matches. Owing to the inflammable nature of the surroundings the flames spread with almost inconceivable rapidity and in a few minutes the whole building was in flames. The fire brigade showed their usual promptitude in turning out, but owing to the lack of hydrants in the vicinity it was some time before they got to work. Two hand pumps belonging to the factory had been got to work to pump water on the burning buildings from some small fire-wells in the compound, but their feeble efforts made no impression on the flames. Eventually the Hongkew and Victorias sent for their engines and on these arriving they were at once got to work to pump water from the Singkeipang Creek. In the meantime the fire had spread to a number of native dwellings adjoining the factory, and it was only by the most strenuous efforts that the flames were held in check. Towards six o'clock the conflagration had almost spent itself and began to yield to the volumes of water thrown on it and by seven o'clock all danger of its further spreading was over. The total amount of damage done is not yet known, but the building in which the fire originated, together with 45 native houses, was totally destroyed. The houses were all inhabited by match-box makers, to the number of about 400, all of whom are thrown out of employment for the time being. The factory was insured for Tls. 30,000, which is only a partial loss, and the houses destroyed for about Tls. 3,000.



"HANDS ALL ROUND!"

INDIAN AND COLONIAL TROOPS AT THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

VII.

SUCH a unique and glorious reign as that of which we have endeavoured to sketch the principal features, demanded a national celebration with all the "pomp, pride, and circumstance" possible. What form the celebration was to take, was a difficult problem to settle. In the first place it was not easy to decide upon a name for the occasion. "Record Reign" is an excellent conversational phrase, but it scarcely lends itself to official phraseology. Then some one suggested "Diamond Jubilee"; the Prince of Wales repeated the term in public, and the great event of 1897 was happily christened. Some critics cavilled at the phrase as inaccurate, and others called it clumsy; it has, however, received universal adoption. The name being settled, it became necessary to consider the thing. In most other countries than Great Britain, the longest reign of a sovereign would have been signalled by the erection of some mighty national monument—like the *Arc de Triomphe*, in Paris, or the *Denkmark Nationale*, on the Rhine. But the Anglo-Saxon race is not

one which turns to architecture for the expression of its triumphs. Besides, a great monument in London would not have satisfied the loyal enthusiasm of the millions of Queen Victoria's subjects in Greater Britain. So glorious a feature in the glorious reign of the Queen has been provided by the expansion of her Colonial Empire, that very great importance was naturally attached to its recognition in the Diamond Jubilee festivities. The Queen and the Royal Family, with a perception of this necessity, which is another evidence of their admirable judgment and good taste, determined upon making the chief event of the Diamond Jubilee a great commemorative service, in which the colonies should be prominently represented. All the premiers of the self-governing colonies of the British Empire were invited to be present at this ceremony, and a contingent of the colonial troops was asked to take part in the procession to the scene of the service. Thus the historical pageant of 22nd June, 1897, in memory of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession, was to be made not only a national but an Imperial function. It was a splendid idea, and it was received with an enthusiasm which affords the best possible proof of the solidarity of the British Empire. Most of the pre-



COLONIAL PREMIERS—

SIR HUGH M. NELSON, K.C.M.G.

(QUEENSLAND.)

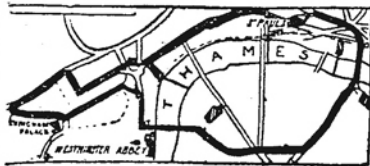
THE HON. R. J. SEDDON. (NEW ZEALAND.)

THE HON. J. LAURIER. (CANADA.)

SIR J. FORREST, K.C.M.G. (WESTERN AUSTRALIA.)

SIR CHARLES TURNER, K.C.M.G. (VICTORIA.)

miers, putting all minor calls upon them on one side in order to assist in this great Pan-British rejoicing, declared their intention to be present in London for the Diamond Jubilee; and the colonial volunteers and the public vied in their zeal to sacrifice time and money for their proper representation. Thus the celebration could not but be the most magnificent assemblage that has ever happened of one mighty nation, coming from its many new homes in all parts of the world, to express its loyalty to its Ruler in the common birth-place of the race. So regarded, the coming Diamond Jubilee festivities are the sign and the symbol of the union and might of the world-wide Anglo-Saxon Empire. Altogether 40,000 soldiers, British, Irish, Indian, and Colonial, were to take part in the pageant. The next thing to determine was the scene of the service. Her

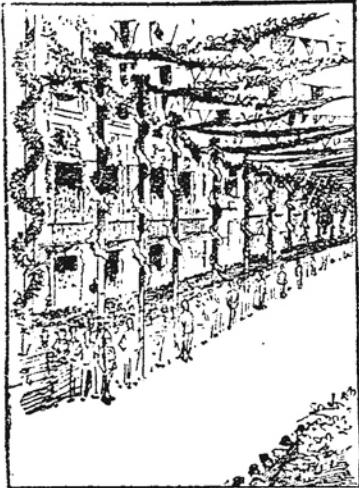


THE ROUTE OF THE PROCESSION.

Majesty was understood to prefer Westminster Abbey, endeared to her by so many associations; but she consented to the selection of St. Paul's, in order that the crowds of her subjects might better see the function. And it was also agreed that the procession should return to Buckingham Palace, by way of London Bridge, Southwark, and Lambeth, in order that some thousands of her very poorest subjects might also witness the pageant. Truly a significant testimony to the kindly feeling which subsists between the British throne and the whole body of those upon whose good-will and respect it stands firmly based.

The details of the thanksgiving ceremonial were drawn up by a committee of which the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught were the principal members. The most noticeable feature of their arrangements was the decision to make the service at St. Paul's an open-air one. This was done primarily to save the Queen the trouble of mounting the steps of the cathedral, but it had the further advantage of offering the opportunity of witnessing the ceremony to the general public. Never before—not even in the Jubilee of 1887—has there been

in England such a display of fervid enthusiasm and anxiety to take part in a popular demonstration of loyalty. Seats all along the line of route were bid for at fabulous prices in the early days of March, and business has been steadily pursued in them ever since. One retail establishment in St. Paul's Churchyard was bought for £5,000 to be knocked down and converted into a stand, and rebuilt afterwards out of the "takings" for seats. A little shop with rooms above, in Fleet Street, fetched £700 for the day. In the poorer districts of the Borough and the Westminster Bridge Road landlords sought to turn out weekly tenants for the



THE STREET DECORATIONS.

sake of the day's hire, till the Prince of Wales let it be known that a change in the route might be determined upon, at a pinch. The same spirit of intense interest was displayed in the arrangements for street decoration. For the first time in the history of street pageants in London, some attempt was made to arrange a consistent and harmonious display all along the line of route. In the West-end this was successfully carried out, but in the City and the South side of the river the decoration was mainly left to individual taste and enterprise. However, the decorations, as they have been carried out, show a decided advance upon anything of the same character yet attempted in England. In particular, the wide use of the electric light has produced most charming and fairy-like effects.

We are much too individual a people, however, to dissipate all our rejoicings over the Queen's Record Reign in a London pageant, however imposing and however crowded. There was some fear at first that the public energy would be largely wasted in small local efforts—the provision, say, of fireworks and a pump, or a statue and a brass band. The Prince of Wales, however, directed the stream of popular enthusiasm into the best possible channel by his institution of the Hospital Fund for London. The fall in the value of agricultural land in England had led to an annual deficiency of £102,500 in those splendid institutions, the hospitals of London. The Prince invited annual subscriptions, of a shilling and upwards, to the total amount of £100,000 or £150,000. Not only was the proposal itself taken up with the warmest and the widest generosity, but it set the fashion for the celebration of the Jubilee in all parts of the Empire. Money, which would otherwise have been frittered away on unimposing and useless memorials, is now being devoted to funds for the relief of town and county hospitals from debt, for the opening of new wards, and for other purposes of charity. For this philanthropic direction of the Jubilee celebrations the Princess of Wales has been responsible,

THE HOSPITAL AND THE DINNER FUNDS—
T. R. H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

along with her husband. She wrote to the Lord Mayor of London suggesting that the 400,000 people in the British metropolis who live in a more or less acute condition of destitution should be provided with a free dinner on Jubilee Day. As a result of this appeal £3,200 was collected in one week.

It need hardly be said that the season of the Diamond Jubilee has been the brightest, the gayest, and the most crowded which this generation has seen in London. The colonial premiers are not the only visitors from the colonies, and every place of public resort has been invaded by over-sea Britons and foreigners. The accent of the German and the Gaul has been heard on every 'bus and in every train. Never has money been so lavishly spent. The hotels have been crowded since the middle of May; the opera has had a most brilliant season; the theatres have been crowded. The Park, "up-the-river," and other resorts of the leisured classes have been packed with well-dressed people.

So, in the centre of her Empire and in the heart of her people, the Queen herself celebrates the longest reign that Providence has allotted to a British ruler, with pious thanks and meet rejoicing. Elsewhere, throughout her wide domains, in mighty cities, in tiny villages, in half-cleared settlements, in mining camps, her subjects have found their various means of marking their remembrance of Victoria the Great. But, however they have celebrated it, or where—in Australian bush hut, in Indian bungalow, in South African "tin shanty," in the centre of the Chinese Empire—the hearts of all have thrilled with the proudest pride of race the world has ever known, as they joined in the toast,

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!"

CHINESE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

SECOND REPORT OF THE WORK CARRIED ON
AT THE CHINESE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION,
SHANGHAI, FROM 11TH FEB.,
1896, TO 1ST JULY, 1897.

The science classes have gone on regularly during the whole of the above-mentioned period, except in the heat of the summer in 1896, when they were discontinued for a vacation of six weeks.

At 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoons the elementary class in mathematics meets. The attendance has varied from 15 to 30. Arithmetic and algebra have been carefully taught, a series of questions being issued every week which have been explained the following week. Before the Secretary left in June last year about 20 students had advanced from the elementary class to the higher class which meets from 7 to 8 on

Saturdays and had passed a thorough written examination in arithmetic. Certificates were given them in the form printed for that purpose. None of them had succeeded in algebra sufficiently to pass the examination. The elementary class was taught by one of the senior students who gave his services gratuitously. The higher class was taught by myself, and afterwards by my son. The attendance at this class varied from 15 to 30.

At 8 o'clock lectures in Chinese were given by myself and accompanied by magic lantern illustrations. The hall was frequently over-crowded with students and their friends. The subjects were scientific, as well as accounts of voyages and travels, and descriptions of industrial occupations. At the commencement of the present year these popular lectures were resumed by one of my assistants, aided by Mr. Lu the Chinese science teacher. The subject of chemistry was chosen. The study of an elementary text book in Chinese was commenced, and explanations with experiments were given. Up to the present time only oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and chlorine had been attempted. The thanks of the Committee are due to my assistant, Mr. Lan for his labours in this direction, which have been quite voluntary.

The regular science classes have been carried on by Mr. Lu, in accordance with the Chinese prospectus issued last year. An entrance deposit of \$5 is required from each student for each subject, which is only refunded to him when he passes his examination and gets his certificate for the subject taught. Last year the attendance of these classes reached as many as 17. This year the number has been much less. On my return to Shanghai in May last, examinations were at once held in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Hydraulics and Hydrostatics. Six passed in Arithmetic, and ten in Algebra from the Saturday and regular classes combined. Certificates were duly given to them. Two students failed in Hydraulics and Hydrostatics; other students in Geometry and Trigonometry are not yet ready for examination. These three-hour examinations were all written in Chinese in my presence under the severest conditions, and the standard was about equal to the highest of our home Colleges. The summer vacation of a month has now begun.

The Rev. F. H. James has attended the Saturday classes with me several times, and has proposed to continue the work of superintending and lecturing during my absence. After the loss of my son the interest in the institution began to decline somewhat, for want of proper foreign care and attention. I have no doubt but that under Mr. James' direction, and with the benefit of his long experience in Chinese educational matters the work of the Institution will make satisfactory progress in the future. Of course a resident foreign teacher and lecturer well up in the Chinese language is what is needed: and as soon as the funds will admit of it, such a gentleman ought to be engaged. A young graduate in science willing to work up the Institution, and capable of studying the language could do an immense amount of good here just at the present crisis.

The prize-essay scheme has not been carried on with the same energy as formerly through the illness and death of Mr. Wang T'ao. There is a great demand for the eight annual volumes already issued of these essays on foreign subjects. Dr. Chou, a well known graduate of the second degree and a member of the Polytechnic Committee, has consented to take over the work of this Department.

JOHN FRYER.
Hon. Secretary.

THE BURMA-CHINA CONVENTION.

By the Convention of 1894 the State of Kokang was recognised as being under Chinese jurisdiction, China, however, transgressed the Convention, which rendered it subject to modification. A more satisfactory arrangement seems to have been come to now, for it was generally recognised as a mistake to give up Kokang to China. The other terms of the protocol, modifying the Convention of 1894, should tend largely towards the promotion of British trade in Yunnan. It would have been more satisfactory, however, if the British Government had also obtained the consent of China to the construction of a railway through Yunnan by British subjects, for the way is now open to an extension of the Mandalay-Kunlon Railway to the Chinese frontier. Unless China is willing to grant this concession it is unlikely that the extension of the railway beyond the Kunlon Ferry will be undertaken. Lord Salisbury said that the policy of the Government would not permit of its interfering with private enterprise in foreign countries, but by obtaining the consent of China to the construction of a railway through Yunnan the British Government would be no more pledged to back those undertaking the construction of the railway than it is to support the British traders, who, under the terms of the modified Convention of 1894, may settle at Sze-nao or Momein. The unfortunate circumstance about the agreement with China is, that, according to the Agreement of January, 1896, France will share equally with Great Britain all the privileges conceded to the latter by China in Yunnan and Szechuan. British enterprise, however, may be well in the field before the French are in a position to exploit with advantage the markets and reputed mineral wealth of Southern China.—*Rangoon Times.*

HANKOW TEA REPORT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Settlements during the week show a marked falling off and barely reach the moderate total of 20,000 packages. The bulk of these teas have been taken by Russian buyers, whose large operations are only checked by the firmness of teamen and the absence of desirable supplies. Second-crop teas continue to come in very slowly, but prices asked and obtained quite put out of court the execution of any but the smallest orders for the London market. A slight improvement in make and crop of a few parcels second-crop Oanfa is noticeable, but the quality generally is far below that of last year. It is said that Russian requirements will absorb practically the whole of the second crop.

The business of the week has been upon the following basis:—

	Tls.	per lb.
Ningehows and Kiu- kiang Packs 11.00	a	31=5d. a 103d.
Oanams 8.30	a	31=4d. a 103d.
Oopacks 11	a	21=43d. a 8d.
The estimated settlements for Russia to date	412,000	½-chts.
The estimated settlements for England, America, Con- tinent of Europe	178,000	"
The estimated export to England to date	7,800,000	lbs.
Actual export to England 1896, same time.....	10,500,000	"

Total arrivals show a falling off 180,271 ½-chests compared with the same number of days last year.

As the total quantity of Congou available for the London market this season is not likely to exceed 10,000,000 lbs., the small

quantity required to make this total (although in some quarters it is maintained that London cannot manage more than 7½ millions) can have no serious effect on shipments now afloat; and as the stock of Congou in London at the middle of this month is rapidly approaching vanishing point,—that is, that it will be only some 4,000,000 lbs.—and a portion of this may well be calculated to be unconsumable stuff, the statistical position of the article is exceptionally strong. Given a market for the produce, fair results may be expected from good management.

The duty and inland taxation weigh abnormally heavily on much of this year's production. For instance on teas ranging from Tls. 9 a Tls. 14 per picul the charge amounts to 37% on the cost; a burden heavy enough to stifle any trade.

In my report of the 7th ult., the crack chop of Keemun, Singar, is stated to have realised Tls. 40. This is manifestly incorrect. The actual price was Tls. 51 per picul.

COMPARATIVE TEA SETTLEMENTS FOR 56 DAYS' MARKET.			
EXCHANGE 3/14.		EXCHANGE 2/98.	
1895.		1897.	
Tls.		Tls.	
88 15	5	8 15	4 1/2
15 20	7	15 20	6 1/2
25 30	10	25 30	7 1/2
35 40	11 1/2	35 40	8 1/2
45 50	12 1/2	45 50	9 1/2
55 60	13 1/2	55 60	10 1/2
65 70	14 1/2	65 70	11 1/2
75 80	15 1/2	75 80	12 1/2
85 90	16 1/2	85 90	13 1/2
95 100	17 1/2	95 100	14 1/2
105 110	18 1/2	105 110	15 1/2
115 120	19 1/2	115 120	16 1/2
125 130	20 1/2	125 130	17 1/2
135 140	21 1/2	135 140	18 1/2
145 150	22 1/2	145 150	19 1/2
155 160	23 1/2	155 160	20 1/2
165 170	24 1/2	165 170	21 1/2
175 180	25 1/2	175 180	22 1/2
185 190	26 1/2	185 190	23 1/2
195 200	27 1/2	195 200	24 1/2
205 210	28 1/2	205 210	25 1/2
215 220	29 1/2	215 220	26 1/2
225 230	30 1/2	225 230	27 1/2
235 240	31 1/2	235 240	28 1/2
245 250	32 1/2	245 250	29 1/2
255 260	33 1/2	255 260	30 1/2
265 270	34 1/2	265 270	31 1/2
275 280	35 1/2	275 280	32 1/2
285 290	36 1/2	285 290	33 1/2
295 300	37 1/2	295 300	34 1/2
305 310	38 1/2	305 310	35 1/2
315 320	39 1/2	315 320	36 1/2
325 330	40 1/2	325 330	37 1/2
335 340	41 1/2	335 340	38 1/2
345 350	42 1/2	345 350	39 1/2
355 360	43 1/2	355 360	40 1/2
365 370	44 1/2	365 370	41 1/2
375 380	45 1/2	375 380	42 1/2
385 390	46 1/2	385 390	43 1/2
395 400	47 1/2	395 400	44 1/2
405 410	48 1/2	405 410	45 1/2
415 420	49 1/2	415 420	46 1/2
425 430	50 1/2	425 430	47 1/2
435 440	51 1/2	435 440	48 1/2
445 450	52 1/2	445 450	49 1/2
455 460	53 1/2	455 460	50 1/2
465 470	54 1/2	465 470	51 1/2
475 480	55 1/2	475 480	52 1/2
485 490	56 1/2	485 490	53 1/2
495 500	57 1/2	495 500	54 1/2
505 510	58 1/2	505 510	55 1/2
515 520	59 1/2	515 520	56 1/2
525 530	60 1/2	525 530	57 1/2
535 540	61 1/2	535 540	58 1/2
545 550	62 1/2	545 550	59 1/2
555 560	63 1/2	555 560	60 1/2
565 570	64 1/2	565 570	61 1/2
575 580	65 1/2	575 580	62 1/2
585 590	66 1/2	585 590	63 1/2
595 600	67 1/2	595 600	64 1/2
605 610	68 1/2	605 610	65 1/2
615 620	69 1/2	615 620	66 1/2
625 630	70 1/2	625 630	67 1/2
635 640	71 1/2	635 640	68 1/2
645 650	72 1/2	645 650	69 1/2
655 660	73 1/2	655 660	70 1/2
665 670	74 1/2	665 670	71 1/2
675 680	75 1/2	675 680	72 1/2
685 690	76 1/2	685 690	73 1/2
695 700	77 1/2	695 700	74 1/2
705 710	78 1/2	705 710	75 1/2
715 720	79 1/2	715 720	76 1/2
725 730	80 1/2	725 730	77 1/2
735 740	81 1/2	735 740	78 1/2
745 750	82 1/2	745 750	79 1/2
755 760	83 1/2	755 760	80 1/2
765 770	84 1/2	765 770	81 1/2
775 780	85 1/2	775 780	82 1/2
785 790	86 1/2	785 790	83 1/2
795 800	87 1/2	795 800	84 1/2
805 810	88 1/2	805 810	85 1/2
815 820	89 1/2	815 820	86 1/2
825 830	90 1/2	825 830	87 1/2
835 840	91 1/2	835 840	88 1/2
845 850	92 1/2	845 850	89 1/2
855 860	93 1/2	855 860	90 1/2
865 870	94 1/2	865 870	91 1/2
875 880	95 1/2	875 880	92 1/2
885 890	96 1/2	885 890	93 1/2
895 900	97 1/2	895 900	94 1/2
905 910	98 1/2	905 910	95 1/2
915 920	99 1/2	915 920	96 1/2
925 930	100 1/2	925 930	97 1/2
935 940	101 1/2	935 940	98 1/2
945 950	102 1/2	945 950	99 1/2
955 960	103 1/2	955 960	100 1/2
965 970	104 1/2	965 970	101 1/2
975 980	105 1/2	975 980	102 1/2
985 990	106 1/2	985 990	103 1/2
995 1000	107 1/2	995 1000	104 1/2

56 DAYS' MARKET.			
LIST OF TEA SETTLEMENTS IN HANKOW.		1896.	
Buyers.		1897.	
Tls.		Tls.	
Molchanoff & Co.	135,274	131,235	
Tokmakoff & Co.	101,847	74,857	
Cheerhoff, Panoff & Co.	71,390	56,008	
C. & S. Popoff	11,914	49,606	
F. S. Deacon & Co.	51,995	39,750	

Rodewald & Co.	46,455	37,785
George Clark	20,298	26,449
Evans, Pugh & Co.	25,468	24,439
Reid, Evans & Co.	7,859	18,813
Theodor & Rawlins	33,933	18,719
Robt. Anderson & Co.	39,024	18,280
J. H. Craven	15,365	16,406
Alex. Campbell & Co.	25,763	16,354
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	12,631	13,454
Dodwell, Carill & Co.	13,118	12,407
W. W. King & Son	9,953	9,593
Greaves & Co.	9,037	8,711
Ramsay & Co.	16,560	7,990
Turnbull, Howie & Co.	7,131	5,153
Overbeck & Co.	10,299	3,390
Welch, Lewis & Co.	2,074	2,111
John Maltby	5,180	
Shipped to Shanghai	2,857	

725,425 590,510

5th July.

NOTES ON GUNS, GUNPOWDER, ETC.

(Concluded.)

II.

First, all modern guns are made of steel. Iron, bronze, gun-metal and cast iron as materials for the manufacture of guns are things of the past. I will therefore briefly describe the process of manufacture of steel. Iron ore is found nearly all over the world. Magnetic iron ore contains as much as 27% of iron. Red and brown hematite ores contain usually about 50% of iron. To separate the metal from its impurities it is necessary to raise the ore to a very high temperature in contact with lime and carbon; the carbon may be charcoal, coke, or even coal. The lime combines with many of the impurities and forms a flux; the iron taking up 2-5% of the carbon becomes ordinary cast iron. Most kinds of cast iron contain impurities that render them unfit for the manufacture of guns. Phosphorus and sulphur, for example, the former renders steel brittle, the latter causes the steel to be friable, when heated, so that it cannot be forged. For this reason, in the manufacture of gun-steel it is necessary to use cast iron of purity. Swedish cast iron is usually employed in England. We have, however, in the Shanghai Arsenal succeeded in making good steel from Hunan pig iron.

To make steel, about 2 parts of cast iron and 1 part of old scrap steel, are put into a steel furnace and melted; after this takes place, a small quantity of hematite ore is added, and this causes what is called *boiling*.

This boiling is caused by the oxygen in the ore combining with the impurities in the cast iron, manganese and silicon and finally the carbon passes away up the chimney as smoke. After some hours of this boiling process the carbon is found by chemical tests and experience to be sufficiently eliminated. Manganese is then added in the form of *Spiegeleisen* or ferro-manganese just before or just after the steel is run out into a ladle. Manganese is added to counteract the evil effects of sulphur; it makes the steel easier to hammer or forge into the requisite shape. The ladle or huge cauldron into which the melted steel is poured has a plug in the bottom, by removing which the steel is run into square or octagonal moulds as required.

The next operation is to forge the steel, i.e., to hammer or press it by hydraulic presses into the requisite form; the quality of the steel very largely depends upon the amount of forging the ingot receives. After the barrel is forged to the proper shape a test piece is cut from the ends in order to try the quality of the steel. The requirements for gun steel are very high so that very frequently forgings have to be rejected, but they can usually be used for other purposes. If the testing proves satisfactory the piece of steel is put into a lathe, rough turned and bored.

It is then hardened in oil. This improves the quality of the steel, but at the same time gives rise to internal strains in the metal so that the piece of steel is again *slightly* heated and allowed to cool slowly. After this, another test is taken: the tensile strength should then be about 40 tons per sq. in. with 20 per cent elongation in 2 inches. After testing, the rough material is sent to the gun shops. First, the barrel is bored very nearly to the finished size and carefully examined for flaws, etc., the hoops or jackets are also bored to the requisite size and shape; then most minute and careful measurements are taken of the internal dimensions of these jackets; the barrel is then turned outside to correspond with these measurements, a certain allowance being made for shrinkage, *i.e.*, when finished the barrel is slightly larger than the interior of the jacket.

The barrel is now placed vertically in a pit; the jackets are heated in a huge furnace, then lowered by means of a crane into their proper position on the barrel.

After the first layer of jackets are thus put on the barrel the partly-formed gun is again put into a lathe and turned to suit the second layer of hoops or jackets which are placed in position in the same manner as the first layer; in large guns there are four or even five layers of hoops or jackets so that the time required for the various shrinking operations is very considerable. After the gun is thus fully built up it is next turned outside, then the interior is finally bored to exact size, then the powder chamber is made to shape, the breech is screwed, the interruptions are cut in the screw. Then comes the rifling, sighting, adjusting, fitting the mechanism, etc., All these operations require the greatest care and attention, it is almost impossible to describe them to a non-technical audience; they must be seen to be fully appreciated.

I cannot attempt in the short time at my disposal to do more than mention the names of some of the guns at present in use. They may be first divided into muzzle-loading, breech-loading, and quick-firing guns. Then we have Mortars, Howitzers, Garrison guns, Siege guns, Field guns, Mountain guns, Naval guns for turrets, sponsons, broadside, etc., etc. In addition to these each of the above kind of guns may vary very much in size and design even when made by the same manufacturer. Before proceeding with any remarks on gunpowder I will, with your permission, say a few words on gunnery. I wish to do this for a special reason, I cannot attempt to do more than give you the most general idea of what is meant by the term Gunnery. It has been defined as "The Science of the Use of Artillery" but really it is very much more than this. It comprises a knowledge of the action of fired gunpowder on a projectile in the bore of a gun, called Internal Ballistics—also a knowledge of the action of and on the projectile after it leaves the gun, called External Ballistics. First with regard to Internal Ballistics. The pressure of the powder gas is found by the use of gauges placed in the gun; they are known as the crusher gauge and the Rodman gauge. I may state that the usual working pressure in a gun is from 10 to 20 tons per square inch, but occasionally with improper powder I have found the pressure rise certainly to 40 tons per square inch. The temperature of the explosion of gunpowder has been calculated to be 2,231 degrees Centigrade. Experiments by placing platinum foil in a closed chamber, in which powder was exploded, places the temperature at about 2,000 deg. Cent. Now the melting point of steel is about 1,400 degrees Cent. so that every time a gun is fired a small portion of the bore is subjected to a temperature much higher than the melting point of the steel of which it is composed.

The velocity of the projectile at various points of the bore is found by means of a special gun used in conjunction with an electrical instrument of great delicacy. From the data we gather from Internal Ballistics we are able to design a gun in proper proportion.

With regard to External Ballistics. The velocity of the shot as it leaves the gun is found by firing through wire screens placed at known distances apart; the screens are then placed in connection with an instrument called a Chronograph, by which the time taken for the projectile to pass from screen to screen is accurately measured.

The trajectory or path of the projectile is also observed; the resistance of the air and the height of the barometer even, must be taken into account in the consideration of External Ballistics.

NOTES ON GUNPOWDER.

It has been remarked that gunpowder is to the gun what the soul is to the body. There is a great deal of truth in this comparison for it is undoubtedly gunpowder that gives life to artillery. It is almost unnecessary to state that ordinary gunpowder is a mixture of saltpetre, charcoal, and sulphur. The proportions used in England are saltpetre 75, charcoal 15, sulphur 10, with one part of saltpetre added to provide against loss in manufacture. In some manufactories the proportions are 75, 12½, and 12½. It is of the greatest importance that gunpowder should give uniform results. To secure this, great care is necessary in the purification of the ingredients and that the mechanical mixture should be as perfect as possible, also that for a given kind or sample of powder the size and density of the grains should be the same.

The quality of gunpowder can be altered very much without altering the proportions of the ingredients:—

- 1.—By altering size of grain.
- 2.—By change of density.
- 3.—By the manner in which the charcoal is burnt.
- 4.—By the kind of wood to make the charcoal, dogwood, alder, willow, etc. Straw is also used. The greater the temperature at which the charcoal is burnt the harder it becomes; the resulting powder is less inflammable and slower burning. The usual method of preparing charcoal for powder making is as follows. The wood is cut into suitable sizes, and placed in retorts or cylinders. The fire being outside, much gas is given off during the first part of the process, which occupies from 4 to 8 hours according to the kind of charcoal required. The retort is allowed to cool; then the charcoal is carefully examined to see if it is all properly charred and that no foreign substance is present. After ten days or so the charcoal is ground.

Saltpetre is found in a natural state in India, China, etc. It can also be produced artificially. It always contains many impurities so that before using it for the manufacture of gunpowder it must be purified. This is a very simple process, for it is found that hot water will dissolve a much greater quantity of saltpetre than cold water so that when cooling the pure saltpetre crystallises on the surface of the water. The crystals are also ground to a fine powder before mixing with the other ingredients.

Sulphur is the least important ingredient of gunpowder, for it is possible to make gunpowder without the use of sulphur. The use of sulphur is that it makes ignition easier (560° F.), it also helps to keep up the temperature of the powder gas after firing, thus adding to the volume and power. It is found naturally, especially in the region of volcanoes. Sulphur is also very impure when in a state of nature. These impurities can be got rid of by taking advantage of a peculiar property of sulphur when subjected to boiling; first at 240° F. it melts, but when 350° F. is reached it becomes semi-solid again. At a

still higher temperature it again melts and at 836° F. it distils as a brownish red vapour, which condenses as a liquid which becomes solid on cooling. This is broken up and ground into a very fine state ready for mixing. The vapour which condenses at the low temperatures becomes what is known as flowers of sulphur. It is not used for gunpowder.

Mixing of the three ingredients is performed in a mixing machine in a dry state, and when finished it is called the green charge. It is not however sufficiently mixed to give the necessary regularity in burning, so that it next passes to the incorporating mills which are huge rolls revolving in a circular trough. During this process the powder is moistened—when complete the powder is in cakes and requires to be again crushed into a powdered form.

Breaking Down is the name given to this operation which consists in passing between gun-metal rollers.

Pressing is the next process. This is done by placing the powder in a hydraulic press. This gives the density to the powder.

Granulating is passing the cake between toothed rollers which break it into granules of various sizes which are sorted by sifting.

Glazing is revolving in drums, with a little graphite added.

Drying is affected in various ways by steam pipes or hot water pipes, etc.

Finishing is a sort of final dusting which removes any dust formed during drying.

Within the last ten or a dozen years many new substitutes for gunpowder have been developed. One of the most noticeable features of these new powders or rather explosives is that they are smokeless or nearly so.

This property is especially valuable in connection with Q. F. guns. It is even of more importance than the Q. F. gun itself, for a Q. F. gun is of very little use if the object is obscured by smoke. The French were the first to adopt smokeless powder and other nations were not slow to follow their example. Nitro compounds were the most successful. Indeed gun cotton, which is a nitro compound, was proposed as a substitute for gunpowder over 50 years ago. The objection to this was and still is that it can be easily detonated.

The smokeless powder made at present at the Shanghai Arsenal is practically gun cotton in another form slightly diluted with vaseline and dissolved by ether, by which it becomes a pasty mass which can be rolled or pressed into sheets and cut into the desired form.

The English government use cordite, which is a mixture of dissolved gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine: both these compounds detonate easily, but strange to say, when mixed in the form of cordite they cannot be detonated, so that they are practically safe.

Cordite is named from its cord-like appearance. It has most excellent keeping qualities; in fact it may be kept in water and simply dried before using. It burns much slower than ordinary gunpowder. It can be used for small arms or for the largest guns, so that we may consider it only a question of time for the old gunpowder to be entirely superseded.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS are warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional), Gravel and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by all chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World. PROPRIETORS, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES' DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln, England. (2 alt) of 555

THE MAGIC SETTLEMENT AT KULING.

Kuling is the name of a section of the Lushan range in the Province of Kiangsi, China. It lies about thirteen miles from Kiukiang, a port on the Yangtze River, 450 miles from Shanghai, and 150 miles from Hankow, the metropolis of Central China. It consists of a gently sloping valley, about four thousand feet above malaria level, which is checkered with numerous streamlets of pure, cool, fresh water (not often seen in this part of the country) and shot to the core with sunshine. The tiny rills which come down from the mountain sides unite to form a main stream which flows through the centre of the valley.

This valley has been bought by foreigners and divided by them into 130 large lots all of which have been re-sold, and the proceeds have been devoted to building three rest-houses—one in Kiukiang, one at the foot of the hills, and another on the Estate—and cutting the road up the mountains. Kuling is controlled by foreigners, and a lot is forfeited if sold to a Chinese. The place has long been known as Ku-niu-ling, 牯牛嶺, but the European who takes

great liberties with Chinese names, has eliminated the middle character and the valley is now *Kuling*. This means "Bullock Pass," and sets one thinking of the Bosphorus and Oxford. The prevalence of this bovine idea in different parts of the Eastern Continent might be used by the too eager philologist to prove the unity of the human race. The Chinese say that a bull haunts this erstwhile lonely valley. Whether it is white like the ox which carried off Europa, we have not found out, but for ages it has infested these mountains, lowing, as we may suppose, in a most ghostly manner, and spreading dismay among the villages, hundreds of feet below. Why foreigners should ascend these hills and build costly residences far removed from the "smoke of man," was beyond the ken of the Chinese. Finally the secret was discovered. Westerners have found out the tricks of this uncanny beast and the bull now submissively and dutifully points out to them the treasures of gold, silver, and precious stones which the mountains contain; and this is the cause of the rush to Kuling! Nearly as childish as the story of Bosphorus, but the anachronism makes it more silly.

De Bosporo nil nisi bovium. Here are fifty stone houses nearly all completed, and some of them would be an ornament to any city. We have plenty of stone for building, plenty of pure water, plenty of fresh mountain air. This is really the first summer that Kuling has become known to the civilised world, and now (3rd July, 1897) people are flocking to the place. About one hundred Europeans are here already. The Chinese have followed by the hundreds. Just before entering the Kuling Estate, the Chinese, attracted by the foreign dollar, are forming a settlement of their own. Beef killed on the spot, bread baked in Kuling ovens, milk from the Kuling dairy, with eggs, vegetables, all cheap enough, are to be had in the greatest abundance. The Imperial Post has come boldly forward and now several carriers arrayed in gorgeous uniforms, with 大清國 brass buttons, arrive each day at 8 a.m. with the letters and leave at 4 p.m., without extra cost to the dwellers in the Happy Village.

From these remarks, however, it must not be inferred that everything is in working order in modern Kuling. The existence of this Magic Settlement has been too brief for many roads, lights, and conveniences; but in due time we will have all these. A meeting of the lot-holders is to be held in August when most of those interested will be present. Measures will then be devised to conserve the public good. The Estate possesses two or three

vacant lots large enough for a Church and Public Garden.

The scenery of the Kuling vicinity is picturesque. It is not only pleasing to the eye but affords an excellent study of the action of water on the earth. A fine view of Kiukiang, the plains and the foot hills, is obtained from the low ridge at the entrance of the Estate. The penance of a steep climb on the hills back of Kuling is rewarded by the prospect of the Poyang Lake. The hills are green and restful to the eye. Nevertheless, the ubiquitous grass cutters may be seen making "hay," while the sun shines: wild flowers in great abundance and variety are found everywhere. The most conspicuous at this time of the year, is a species of red lily which grows in the brook beds. This morning we observed some of these lovely flowers pinned in the button hole of a "nobby" little Frenchman and not far off a non-aesthetic, utilitarian Chinese was ruthlessly gathering large quantities of the beauties—for greens to boil with his rice. The Japanese nightingale with his liquid note and final whistle, is heard at all hours of the day. Where these birds nest their young is a marvel, for there are no trees in Kuling. They probably find a retreat in the tall grass and bushes of the valley sides.

For the benefit of those intending to visit Kuling we offer a few suggestions. Much confusion will be avoided by adhering strictly to the regulations already made with the coolies. Upon arriving in Kiukiang let all luggage be carried to the port rest-house. Thirty cash for each load is to be paid to each coolie. When these coolies are paid off, the rest-house caretakers will weigh the baggage and receive payment in full for as much as has been weighed and a receipt is taken. This is given to the coolie when the baggage arrives at the foot-hills rest-house. A similar transaction is made at the foot-hills rest-house for Kuling where the coolies are dismissed with the receipt, a presentation of which at Kiukiang secures their pay. It is advisable to change chair coolies at *Lien Hui Tung* (蓮花洞), the foot-hills, if the trip from Kiukiang to Kuling is to be accomplished in one day. The fresh air makes an Englishman feel in the humour for a liberal *cumshaw*, but it causes trouble for the next comer. The damp weather is apt to warp bent-wood furniture and we suspect that musical instruments will revert to original wood or become unglued. Mosquito curtains will certainly be needed *en route* and probably on the hills. There seems to be a good supply of excellent charcoal for cooking and a modified Chinese range with iron bars for grates is much in use. We note that everybody thinks his lot the best, and Shakespeare has long since remarked that, "Our content is our best having."

S. J. W.

A TRIP TO THE "OLD COUNTREE."

I.—SHANGHAI TO 'FRISCO.

(By J. T. HAMILTON, F.R.G.S., F.R.C.I.)

Who is there among the descendants of the race that controls the destinies of the Western part of this globe from its island stronghold in the North Atlantic, who has not looked forward with some degree of emotion to a visit to the home of his forefathers? Whether the sojourner be in the Flowery Land, under the gleam of the glorious Southern Cross, beneath the hot rays of the tropical sun, or chilled by the icy breezes of our great Canadian colony, he is possessed by the same feeling of devotion to the "old countree," and is proud of being a mere unit in the sum total which makes up the Anglo-Saxon

race. This year these feelings may be said to have been emphasised inasmuch as it marks an epoch in the history of the country, namely, the attainment by our beloved Queen of the longest reign that Britain has ever witnessed. One feels tempted at the merest thought of the Victorian era to dwell upon the many remarkable developments in all departments of knowledge which have characterised it; but this must be reserved for its proper place in future contributions.

We left Shanghai on the 7th of May, and having been safely taken down the muddy Huangpu, we got on board the *Peru*, where genial Captain Friele gave us a kindly welcome. On arriving at Nagasaki, the passengers readily abandoned themselves to the delights of Pierre Loti's favourite region, and climbed the hill overlooking the lovely harbour. A descent was made on the other side of the hill to Mogi, through a mass of greenery of beautifully variegated form and colour, and over babbling mountain brooks and mazy wood-paths. A capital fish luncheon was partaken of at the foot, after which the time was occupied in watching the dreamy motion of the boats upon the placid lake-like surface of Shimabara Bay, and in listening to the dainty little *Mesdames Chrysanthème* murmuring gentle "sopranos" to their lovers on the water. A vigorous walk brought us to the summit of the hill, where a lovely view can be had.

A short stay was made at Kobe, where the progress being made by the Japanese was made manifest in the form of an Industrial Exhibition of a highly creditable character. Advantage was taken of the stay at Yokohama to visit the capital of Japan, and it was impossible not to be impressed with the advance being made in Tokio. This is observable in the character of its public buildings, the excellent condition of its roads, its efficient lighting, its excellent water supply, and the smart, soldierly appearance of even the rawest recruits on the parade ground. What a difference between the Japanese capital and the capital of China! The one adapts itself, with praiseworthy zeal, to all phases of modern civilisation. The same cannot be said of the other which shuts its eyes to some things that will tend to improve its condition. Can we wonder at the defeat of the Chinese, when such a comparison is made?

But, nevertheless, there is much to be said in China's praise, and she would accomplish much if she were willing to place her shoulder in the collar, and of this I think there are signs. The conservative dragon is becoming less collar-proud: it is to be hoped that she will completely throw off the yoke that has held her back, and take her place in a more equitable handicap with her Western sisters in the race for civilisation and the happiness of future generations and the world generally.

The passage to Honolulu was somewhat rough for the period of the year, but as we neared the beautiful islands of the Pacific, the sea became as calm as an inland lake, and the heat quite tropical in its intensity. On entering the harbour, the scene presented to view was charming in the extreme. Every vessel, from men-of-war to the smallest boats, was decorated with a profusion of bunting in honour of the birthday of our beloved Queen. In the background lay Honolulu, nestling under a mantle of variegated green.

Anyone who thinks that he is visiting a semi-barbarous town when he visits Honolulu, makes a great mistake. The vivifying influence of Anglo-Saxon blood and brain is visible on all hands. The roads are beautifully kept, and the town is supplied with all modern conveniences; but whilst taking advantage of modern scientific progress, the inhabitants have allowed the town to retain its tropical appearance. Nearly every street may be said to be

a boulevard, and every suburb a beautiful natural park. In the morning we drove to the Pali, an eminence situated about six and a-half miles from Honolulu. The road from the town leads by a gradual ascent to a height of 1,200 feet, the mountains on either rising to over four thousand feet. And what Elysian groves we pass through,—fit for the abode of the gods! The whole road may be described as running through a series of conservatories. Here we have stately, royal palms, with their glorious shade of mammoth leaves; there the graceful algaroba; and anon pepper and eucalyptus, whilst dotted amidst this mass of green are the varied blooms of oleanders, fuchsias, geraniums, and morning-glories. We pass all sorts of fruit trees,—mountain apples, mangoes, bananas, pomegranates, tamarinds, bread-fruits, pine-apples, the avocado pear and a host of others. A clatter of horses' hoofs approaching us made our driver look to his reins, and as the small cavalcade came nearer we observed a number of ladies, riding astride, on finely-built horses bred from imported stock. With what grace they handled their reins! Every horse and its fair rider seemed one piece of graceful mechanism. The steed of one of the fair Amazons, as if to show what its mistress could do, curvetted and pranced like a circus horse performing a dance, but it in no wise upset the equilibrium of the beautiful girl on its back, who, with laughing eyes and flowing raven hair, soon brought the animal to its senses and rejoined her companions. Many of the foreign ladies ride astride, particularly the younger ones.

Arriving at the summit, a glorious panorama spread itself out before our gaze. A precipice of 500 feet in sheer descent is at our feet, and from its base to the seacoast the country is laid out in extensive sugar and rice plantations.

We returned to the hotel, after having sufficiently feasted our eyes with the lovely scenery, and partook of a very poor lunch, at the conclusion of which we drove to Punchbowl Hill, from which the whole country could plainly be seen. In the afternoon we attended a reception given by the English Commissioner, Mr. A. G. S. Hawes, in honour of the Queen's Birthday. The invitations had been general, and the scene in the gardens of the Commissioner was both picturesque and interesting. Almond-eyed, diminutive Japanese officers, got up regardless of expense, rubbed shoulders with members of the Diplomatic corps. Beautiful half-caste women, with large, glorious, dreamy eyes, and exquisitely graceful figures, clinked their glasses with fair-haired, dainty Europeans. The band played selections from Sullivan's charming operas, and what with the music, the scent of the flowers, the colours of the dresses, and the cause of the occasion, it need scarcely be said that everyone was in exuberant spirits.

It seemed difficult to believe that beneath so fair a surface any discordant elements could exist, and yet at the very moment when Japs joined Americans over the flowing bowl, in drinking the health of our Queen, the former were probably thinking out a scheme for the annexation of the Islands. The relations between the Hawaiian Government and the Japanese Government have recently become very strained, and at the time I left there was talk of the latter endeavouring to effect a *coup d'état* by the landing of troops from her gunboats and taking possession of the seat of government. The cause of the difference between the two governments is the vexed question of the importation of foreign labour. A vessel containing 600 Japanese recently put into port, with the object of landing its passengers as labourers. The Hawaiian authorities, on the ground that there was infectious disease on board, sent the vessel and

its passengers back to Japan. The Japanese consider that the Republic used this as a pretext for the keeping out of Japanese labour, and contend that it is a contravention of the Treaty between the two countries. Whether this is so or not, is a matter for others to decide. There can be no doubt that the Japanese Government feel that, considering the number of Japs in the island, they should be admitted to the ordinary privileges of citizenship, which are at present denied them, and they conceive this to be a ground for complaint.

The population of the Islands is at present made up as follows: Hawaiians 33,000, Japanese 26,000, Chinese 15,000, Caucasians 1,000. If the Republic desires to stop the glutting of the Hawaiian labour market and its concomitant evils of over-population and poverty, it must abrogate the treaties which at present exist with China and Japan and formulate new ones for the protection of labour, just as the Australian colonies did when they were flooded with Chinese coolies. This must be done in an honest, open manner, if the friendship of the Great Powers is to be kept by the Republic. Supposing the Japs were to take the Sandwich Islands, they could only hold them for a very short time. England and America could not permit the only coaling station between San Francisco and the East to be in the power of such an ambitious little nation as the Japs. In the interests of all concerned, it is best that the Republic should be permitted to retain its autonomy, and under the Constitution of the Fourth of July, 1894, which has succeeded so well up to now, that she should work out her own political and commercial salvation.

(To be continued.)

A YUNNAN EXPEDITION.

Rangoon, 21st Jun.

News comes from Myikina that on Friday last, Lieutenant Eldred Pottinger, R. A., and Mr. Lawrance arrived there after a very exciting time in Western Yunnan. They were attacked by Black Marus on the night on the 22nd of May. Their native surveyor and a Gurkha were killed and two other men wounded. They were compelled to abandon all their baggage, and, taking the two wounded men, they escaped into the jungle and after suffering great privations for eight days they reached Chinese territory. It is much to be regretted that this plucky expedition has met with such bad luck but it can scarcely be said to be unexpected. Lieutenant Pottinger, as becomes one of his name, is a keen geographer and for years had planned a complete exploration of the unknown and little known regions of Western Yunnan and the Chinese frontier of Tibet. The wind was to some extent taken out of his sails by Prince Henri's journey, but the latter only scampered over the ground as a Cook's tourist might, our geographical knowledge being little, if anything, the richer for his daring journey, which was more of the nature of an escapade than a serious attempt to throw light on the dark places of South-Western China. Mr. Pottinger, therefore, determined to pursue his original plan, modified somewhat. He was well aware, we believe of the dangers he ran amongst the wild tribesmen north of Siam. The Government, we hear, refused to sanction at present any expedition into that region, as, no doubt, it was felt that in case of a semi-official expedition meeting with ill-treatment, Government might be compelled to take action, and this, from every point of view, was undesirable. Mr. Pottinger apparently then decided to make his own arrangements. He was joined by Mr. Lawrance, a gentleman of private means, and was assisted by the Royal Geographical Society. The party was a small one numbering some six or seven

Gurkhas and a native surveyor. It was intended to make a careful survey of both branches of the Irrawaddy, following them to their sources and thus, amongst other things, settling at rest for ever one of the questions that has for generations vexed the souls of geographers. They set out in February and till now not a word has been heard from them. What has been done we do not yet know, but unfortunately it looks as if the journey has been fruitless, for not only had the party to fly after a night attack on the 22nd of May, in which they lost two men, but all the baggage has been lost. It is a pity that such an interesting expedition should have ended so lamentably. Lieut. Pottinger and Mr. Lawrance have the consolation of knowing there have been numbers of failures in the same region, but these so-called failures are now the best-known names in the history of exploration on the Burmo-Chinese frontier. Cooper, Gill, Margary, Richthofen—these and other explorers of Western and South-Western China failed to accomplish the tasks they set themselves; Prince Henri succeeded and yet the latter's feat will be forgotten while the names of the others will remain as long as the literature of geography lives.—*Rangoon Gazette.*

LIFE IN LONDON.

(FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.)

SPRING.

I am back from my two delightful spring months in America. I left behind me a tropical sun to meet cold, misty days in a London late Spring. April and May were dreadful, my friends all tell me, in and about London. But in New York, in Boston, in Philadelphia, and in beautiful Washington, it was a daily joy to live and to revel in sunshine and clear skies. Only now, when June is well started in, have we begun to realise that it is the Queen's Month of early summer, and the sun shines so brightly, the parks are so gay with flowers, the sweet English girls are so "smart" in new gowns, and wonderful blossom-laden Victorian bonnets and Gainsborough hats, that we confess it is summer, and that London is not so bad, after all. Apropos of the Victorian bonnets. They are quite the latest "fad." They are reproductions of the hats worn by her Majesty the Queen when she came to the Throne sixty long years ago. How quaint they look, these scoop Leghorns with wreaths of pink roses about the face, and nodding plumes about the be-ribboned crowns! Every body is Jubilee-mad, you see, even the bonnet shops holding high carnival.

THE PRESENTS

that come to the Queen, are enough to turn even her dear wise head. China's Special Ambassador to Great Britain, His Excellency Chang Yin-huan, has brought some exquisite gifts from the Emperor and the Empress-Dowager of China, to our "Lady of the moon." The Tibetan "joss" sticks for burning on the altar of longevity, and the pine tree devices all indicative of "longevity" will be as pleasing to the Queen of England as the porcelain and jade stone cups and vases sent also by the Dowager Empress. And the Emperor's gold and silver embroideries are said to be the very rarest ever brought to these shores.

"Her Majesty," says rumour, "is as pleased as a child" over the evidences constantly shown her, of affection, loyalty, and generosity, the world over, on her long and prosperous reign.

Scarcely had the gifts from China arrived, than the Queen in acknowledgment of a request for an autograph, in a book, paid a graceful compliment to the good Roman Catholic nuns of

THE MAYFIELD CONVENT

in Sussex. This Convent was once part of a palace owned by Queen Elizabeth. In 1834 Queen Victoria made a visit to the old portions of the building, which has such a historic interest. At once the nuns began a history of the Convent engrossed on parchment and beautifully illustrated by themselves. The work has been a slow one, but it has been a labour of love and many hands are now cold in death that once wrought on the work. At last it was completed, and sent to the Queen through her godchild, Miss Victoria Wood, a daughter of Sir Evelyn Wood, begging Her Majesty's autograph. The Queen read the book carefully, doubtless recalling many incidents of the vanished years as she read. Then she wrote a short inscription at the beginning in which she recalled pleasantly her visit to the convent, sixty-three years ago, when she was a young girl of fifteen.

AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS

are to have a treat this month. In a well-known London auction room a bundle of private letters is to be sold. They were written by the Queen to the Duke of Sussex. One is written from Walmer Castle, Nov. 11th, 1842. It says: "The Prince of Wales is very well, and will shortly walk alone." In another letter to the Duke in which thanks are expressed for his wishes for the 10th, the Queen writes: "That day ever must be one of joy and gratitude to me as being the commencement of the greatest possible happiness to me. Few, if any possess such a treasure as I do in my deep-loved Albert, whose only object is the happiness and well-being of others. May his bright example of virtue and excellence be followed by my son, and may he be the image of his father is my most fervent prayer." It would be curiously interesting to trace out the stages through which these letters, now yellow with age, have at last found their way into an auction room. I would be willing to wager a great deal that some woman is at the bottom of it. My sex is at the bottom of most events in life—good and bad.

To me the incident suggests London of a past day, when the Queen was young to the great world.

OLD LONDON.

The great world of London has grown older, and little by little it is vanishing, that London of a dim past. As I write, the Old Bell Tavern in Holborn is put up for sale. The heavy wooden gates have swung on their hinges, since the Old Bell was built on the site of a tavern that flourished there 300 years ago. You pass these gates, and peep in at the left on an odd old kitchen next to the trim private parlour of the host and hostess, with a waiter bobbing in and out looking out on arriving guests. Then there is the row of bells above the coffee room, from which we see in the back, in a small niche above the gateway, a tiny figure of Napoleon. It has always been looked upon as something to revere. In the old Inn Yard player-folk gave entertainments before London was replete with grand theatres. What eloquent processions of history one can conjure up in mental panorama, standing to-day in the yard of this famous starting-point for coaches, discontinued only a few years ago!

CHARLES DICKENS

used to frequent the Old Bell. One's thoughts revert to Dickens, for last week was the anniversary of his death, twenty-seven years ago. Hundreds of people, largely Americans, visited Westminster Abbey, gazed at the bust of the world's novelist, and reverently placed flowers and wreaths on and around the statue. One flower bore a card. It read that Dickens in 1837 in June, the year of the Queen's accession to the throne, produced the immortal *Pickwick Papers*.

It is suggested that another year we begin to celebrate a "Dickens Day" that new generations may keep his memory green. A little book came to press on this present "Dickens Day" by Mamie Dickens, *My Father as I Recall Him*. They are simple pages of tender recollections, which the loving daughter did not live to correct in proof. But this adds to its value as the words have come so straight from heart to pen. It is sentiment not style we need in our books, these days when men and women are so prone to cynicism.

The book has a picture of Charles Dickens, the Gad's Hill home, his study with his empty chair, and his grave in Westminster Abbey. This book was the last literary work of Miss Dickens, who wrote it literally while she was dying. Writing of

GOOD WOMEN

suggests other women who are not only good, but exceedingly clever, full of plans and work to make this bad old world better, to redress its wrongs and bring about reforms where most needed. I have been greatly enamoured of the earnestness, the nobility, the of splendid humanity of the American women. They are far ahead of the men in greatness of character, I am prone to think. They live, not only for to-day, but for a larger day which spells "Eternity." They regard this life as only a kindergarten for the great College of the Hereafter. Mind you, America has her frivolous women. Even these are beautiful in their frocks, and faces, and fascinating in their frivolities, for the American woman spells "Charm," be she rich or poor, clever or simple. But the women to whom I burn fervent incense are the representative American women, not "the shrieking sisterhood," but the women who form the bone and muscle of America's greatness, with a dash of the Angel over all. And lo! while I rave over them, I return to find just as great and good women in old England. Not volatiles of "Vanity Fair," but God-inspired women who are doing work which shall endure, and who are illuminating the pages of Victorian history. So I conclude good women are of no particular country.

AND THEIR GOOD WORK.

The other day, the lace makers of Nottingham were ably represented by a Miss Barry, one of the organisers of a protective league in their cause, by which in future the industry will not be injured, and its workers hampered by employers too eager to secure all the spoils. Again in Abingdon, the tailoresses, who have hitherto worked for starvation wages—for "needs must when the devil drives,"—decided no longer to submit. They had no funds, no leaders, no Trades Union. But one of their number went to the employers and calmly put the case to them, appealing to a sense of justice in the giving of better wages. She was a womanly woman, and she won the day, by her modest eloquence. And now her sisters in work are happy and they bless her for her championship. Humble victories, but let nothing be sneered at which helps women to toil along the road in better fashion. Again, at Manchester ladies have held a conference by which they propose to improve the relationship between mistress and maid, so that each may be helpful to the other, in future.

The artist people, singers, painters, and actors are always eager to help their less fortunate associates. Madame Calvé is to sing *Carmen* in London this Diamond Jubilee season. Madame Calvé made a vow, as a girl, that if she was successful in her art, she would give part of her income to charity. She has bought an old Castle, handsomely endowed it, and is about to found an orphanage for girls. With this news comes the information that the Countess of Castellane, formerly Miss Gould

of New York, has given a million dollars "to build something—anything; but solid enough not to burn" as a charitable institution, perhaps a hospital, on the ruins of the *Bazar de la Charité* which fatal bazaar threw not alone Paris, but the world into grief, a few weeks ago, as the flames mounted skywards above countless dead bodies.

So I end as I began with a tribute to America, in the person of the fair heiress to one of America's largest fortunes.

ANNIE WAKEMAN LATHROP.

11th June.

THE LAUNCH OF THE KAISER
WILHELM DER GROSSE.

At the yard of the Vulcan Company of Stettin an event took place yesterday, which in the history of the shipping industry, and particularly of the German mercantile marine, is exceedingly noteworthy, namely the launch of the largest merchant steamer of the present day, the twin-screw steamer *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*, belonging to the North-German Lloyd, an occasion to which an additional interest was given by the presence of His Majesty, the Emperor.

The *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* far exceeds in size, and when completed is expected to rival in speed, all vessels at present afloat. The ship is 64½ feet long over all, has a beam of 66 feet, and a depth from main deck to keel of 43 feet. Her registered tonnage is 14,000 and displacement tonnage 20,000. From these large dimensions it may confidently be reckoned that the vessel will prove to be an excellent sea boat, as her great length will do away with the unpleasant pounding motion. The great experience which the North-German Lloyd has gained in the *Barbarossa* class of steamers with reference to the diminution of rolling by the use of bilge keels, leads to the expectation that this motion will be reduced to a minimum in the new steamer. The violent vibration which is experienced in many fast steamers fitted with powerful engines, will not be found in this ship (which has been carefully built to the highest requirements of the Germanischer Lloyd for a four-decked vessel, with extra strengthening beyond the regulations) for the reason that the engines are "balanced" upon the Schlick system, in such a manner that the vibration of the powerful machinery is not transmitted to the hull of the vessel.

Special mention should be made of the measures in accordance with the most recent experience gained, for the safety of the ship and passengers. The vessel is divided into 18 water-tight compartments, by 16 transverse bulkheads reaching to the upper deck, and a longitudinal bulkhead in the engine room; these are built and strengthened according to the latest regulations laid down by the Germanischer Lloyd and the Marine Association, and they have been so designed that the filling of three compartments will not endanger the safety of the ship. Particular importance is attached to the fact that in this ship the four groups of boilers are each separately enclosed in water-tight divisions, in order that in case of collision the vessel can never be without steam to drive the principal engines and pumps. The pumps are so arranged that in the event of the possible flooding of the engine space, steam-pumps can be worked in all parts of the ship. The general arrangements of the steamer are far in advance of what has hitherto been considered sufficient for large passenger ships. In addition, there is a double bottom, which, subdivided into 22 compartments and stretching the entire length of the ship, offers an efficient protection against damage in that part. Notwithstanding all these precautions for safety 24 large boats are provided on the bridge deck ready for

immediate use. It may be further mentioned that the ship has been built to the requirements of the German navy and will carry a number of quick-firing guns for use as an armed cruiser.

An enormous deckhouse extends over the 'midship' part of the steamer for a length of 400 feet. The arrangements for first-class passengers are almost entirely upon the upper deck and the promenade deck. This design is so far conducive to the safety of the ship in that it admits of the water-tight doors being kept closed at night and in thick weather without inconvenience to the passengers. In the first-class there are 200 state rooms arranged for 400 passengers. The second-class contains 100 cabins with 350 berths. The third-class is arranged to carry 800 passengers. The particularly spacious and elegant drawing room and dining saloon are decorated with masterpieces of German art, the dining saloon being in the early Italian renaissance style, with a bright ground and light gold work, and very high and wide skylights. The spaces between the windows are filled with paintings of Imperial residences dating from olden times up to the present. Attached to the dining saloon are four smaller saloons, two at each end, and named respectively the Königin Luise, Kaiserin Augusta, Moltke, and Bismarck saloons. The other parts of the ship are decorated partly in rococo style, early Italian renaissance and Queen Anne styles. In addition to the drawing room and dining saloons there are a reading room, music room, and smoking room. Altogether the saloons, &c., are remarkable for the artistic way and excellent taste in which they are furnished and decorated. The cabins are large enough to accommodate three persons when so needed, and there are also state cabins and suites of rooms. The promenade deck, 400 feet long, and permanently covered and projected to the ship's side by the bridge-deck, offers a particularly acceptable retreat.

The crew will consist of no fewer than 450 men. The machinery, also built by the Vulcan Company of Stettin, consists of two triple expansion engines, each with four cranks and four cylinders constructed with massive "balance" gear on the Schlick system in order to ensure smooth working. The diameters of the cylinders are as follows:—High pressure cylinder 52 inches, intermediate cylinders 89½ inches, two low-pressure cylinder 96½ inches. Both engines are divided by a longitudinal water-tight bulkhead in order to increase safety. It is scarcely necessary to mention that the entire design is carried out in the best and most solid way in accordance with the latest experience gained in the science of marine engine building.

The two three-bladed propellers have a diameter of 22 feet 3¼ inches and a pitch of 32 feet 10 inches. They are made of bronze and weigh each about 26 tons. The cranks, as well as the propeller shafts, which are 24 inches in diameter are of the best nickel steel from the firm of Krupp, of Essen, a material which has been found to be of extraordinary toughness. The weight of the cranks of each engine is 40 tons. The length of shafting is 198 feet. The two condensers have a cooling surface of 35,622 square feet, the number of tubes in the same being 11,060 which placed end to end would reach a length of 65 kilometres. For a variety of purposes a number of steam-pumps and other auxiliary engines have been erected in the engine and boiler spaces, altogether 47 in number, including four large dynamos, two air-pumping engines, four large centrifugal pumps, a cold-air engine and many others. The total number of engines upon this ship is no less than 68 with 124 cylinders. In case it should be necessary to prevent the flooding of the ship, four centrifugal pumps, two steam exhaust pumps and six duplex pumps have been arranged for this

purpose, which altogether are capable of discharging 3,600 tons of water per hour. The boiler rooms are ventilated in a most efficient manner both by natural and artificial means by 16 powerful ventilating engines. The boilers are arranged in four groups; corresponding to these are four funnels of a diameter of 12ft. 2in. and a height above keel of 106ft, the number and size of these at once mark the ship as an "express steamer."

The *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* will not only be the largest, but without doubt also the finest of all vessels at present crossing the ocean. Exactly similar arrangements will be made in the new twin-screw steamer *Kaiser Friedrich*, now being built at the yard of F. Schichau, at Danzig. With these two ships the North-German Lloyd, which already possesses the largest fleet of express steamers, will renew and advance its position in the passenger traffic. The first of these giant vessels to be placed upon the sailing list will be the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*. May this stately ship do honour to her eminent God-parent, and earn fame and profit for her builders and the North-German Lloyd!—*Extract from Weser Zeitung of 5th May.*

THE MYSTERY OF THE UNEBI KAN.

The following letter appears in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 10th inst:—

Sir,—The interesting article under this heading which you reproduced from a Japan paper seems to fit in with some accounts of shipwrecks given me by the Rev. W. Campbell, of Formosa, who spent a month in the Pescadores in 1893, soon after the deplorable wreck of the *Bokhara* and *Norman*. I was so confident that one wreck was that of the *Unebi Kan* that I reported it to the Japanese Consul here, and also to the Naval Authorities. The story as given me by Mr. Campbell, who got it from the natives of the Northern Islands of the Pescadores, was that in rough weather, in the spring of 1886, two fishermen saw on a submerged reef to the N.W. of the N.W. Outlier a number of men, described by them as several hundred, who made frantic gesticulations for them to come and save them, but owing to the rough sea and the numbers on the reef they were afraid to approach. They then returned home with the news and when boats set out next day not a man was to be seen. The natives described these men as small of stature and dark and thought they were Malays or Japanese.

The natives gave Mr. Campbell many other accounts of shipwreck in which there were no survivors, but a veritable windfall in wreckage, which they never made any fuss about. There is no doubt that many valuable ships and lives have been lost on the Northern Pescadores, particularly sailing ships, whose fate has never been known. The interesting relics found by the police officer on the Pescadores leave no doubt but that the *Unebi Kan* was lost in that neighbourhood; but why in a typhoon? for it was not the typhoon season.

Mr. Campbell was so positive of the existence of an unknown reef to the westward of the Pescadores that I reported it at the time and again in 1896, when I got the approximate position from a Japanese transport. I understand the reef has been searched for, but surely a few dollars to the fishermen, who are said to know its position well, would save much trouble and give us the position of a reef lying almost in the track of vessels taking a mid-channel course. If this reef is known to the Japanese naval authorities why is it not on our charts?—Yours, etc.

A. V. HODGINS.

Hongkong, 8th July, 1897.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s SUPREME COURT.

Shanghai, 13th July.

Before SIR NICHOLAS J. HANNEN, Chief Justice.

SASSOON v. BENNETTZ.

This was a claim for one month's rent of offices by Messrs. David Sassoon, Sons & Co. against Messrs. Bennertz & Co. Mr. J. E. Judah represented the plaintiffs and Mr. H. P. Wilkinson appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Wilkinson said he was prepared to admit judgment, but he asked his Lordship to take into consideration the fact that the rent claimed was due in advance.

Mr. Judah said that the rent was due in advance on the 15th of every month, and the defendants had sub-let some of the property.

His Lordship gave judgment for the amount claimed, with costs.

Mr. Judah asked if he would have to make another application for execution.

His Lordship said he must do that, by and by, in due course.

BLANC v. BENTLEY.

This was a claim by Dr. E. Blanc against Mr. J. W. Bentley for Tls. 80 on account of professional services rendered to the defendant's wife and family. The defendant paid Tls. 20 into Court. Mr. F. Ellis (Messrs. Browett & Ellis) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. H. P. Wilkinson for the defendant.

Mr. Ellis, in opening the case for the plaintiff, explained that the claim was for medical attendance upon the defendant's wife and family between the 31st of July, 1895 and the 3rd of March, 1896. In his answer the defendant admitted owing Tls. 20, but said that the contract under which the Tls. 60 was to be paid was not fulfilled by the plaintiff, and therefore was not due. The plaintiff had not instituted the case for the mere sake of the recovery of the sum claimed, but on account of the principle involved in the case. He had discharged certain professional duties, and he was entitled to have them recognised in a proper way. Not until the answer was filed in Court had the defendant ever suggested that he should not pay the claim for the reasons now alleged.

Dr. Blanc was then called. He said he was an M. D. of Paris, in practice in Shanghai since August, 1889. Mrs. Bentley came to consult him seven times in 1895, when she was living at Pootung. She was expecting her confinement, and on his advice after Christmas she came to live with some friends at the Rifle Range. Before her confinement he paid her 23 visits. There was no arrangement as to a contract, and if he had charged at the ordinary rate per visit and for the confinement, it would come to about Tls. 175. But he thought the defendant was not able to pay such a sum, and he accordingly reduced it to Tls. 60 for the services in connection with the confinement. When the two bills amounting to Tls. 80 were presented to the defendant he kept them, and told the shroff to come again, but he never paid. Receiving no reply to his letters he had taken these proceedings.

Mr. Wilkinson, in cross-examining the plaintiff, said he hoped it would be understood that neither he (Mr. Wilkinson) nor the defendant imputed to the plaintiff any want of professional skill. In reply to Mr. Wilkinson Dr. Blanc said he was informed, when he first saw Mrs. Bentley, that there might be circumstances which would complicate her illness. She was confined on the 23rd of February, and he consented to her going over to Pootung on the 12th of March. On the 18th of March he received a letter from her

husband that she was suffering from high fever, and asking him to come over in the launch which would be at the jetty at two o'clock. That was during his consultation hours, but at considerable inconvenience he went down to the jetty at 2.35 but could not find the launch. He left a message for the *ladah* that he would be back at five o'clock. He was on the jetty again at five o'clock, but still the launch was not there. He went home and wrote a letter to Mr. Bentley pointing out how difficult it was for him to go over to Pootung during his hours of consultation, and suggesting that Dr. Burge might be called in. He did not then know that Dr. Burge never attended ladies. He heard no more from Mr. Bentley, and some other doctor was called in.

Mr. Wilkinson said his client felt that he must contest the claim as the services Dr. Blanc agreed to perform were not rendered.

Mr. Bentley, the defendant, gave evidence to the effect that he agreed with Dr. Blanc to attend his wife during her confinement, and any subsequent consequential illness for Tls. 60. Seventeen days after her confinement his wife returned to Pootung. On the 17th of March, he wrote a letter to Dr. Blanc that his wife had high fever and asked him to come over in the launch, which would be at the Jetty at two o'clock. The launch left for Shanghai at one o'clock and returned at four without the doctor. On the evening of the 18th defendant wrote another letter to the plaintiff and sent it by the Local Post. Dr. Blanc did not come, and on the 19th defendant called in Dr. Cooper, who found Mrs. Bentley then in partial paralysis. She subsequently died.

His Lordship suggested to Mr. Wilkinson that he could not contest the case further. A letter was written to Dr. Blanc, but for some reason or other he could not find the launch. Then he heard nothing more, and the fact that a letter was posted was no proof at all that it was received. They all knew what the Local Post was, and he could not assume that because a letter was sent by the Local Post it must have been received. There was no shadow of evidence to prove that Dr. Blanc received a second letter. He (his Lordship) could quite understand that out of certain circumstances a very unfortunate and terrible result had followed, and he could understand that the defendant felt a disinclination to pay under circumstances which he thought were not such as they should be; but looking at the legal aspect of the case the defendant would be bound to pay. But it would be a graceful act on Dr. Blanc's side if he would take a verdict without costs.

Mr. Ellis said his client was quite prepared to do so.

His Lordship—I may say I think it is a proper termination to such a dispute. There is not the slightest reflection upon Dr. Blanc and his medical character, and on the other side, I can quite understand the sad circumstances which have caused the dispute.

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H.B.M.'s POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 9th July.

Before H. F. BRADY, Esq.,

Police Magistrate.

R. v. ABDUL MAKU.

An Indian named Abdul Maku was charged with stealing a number of articles, valued at \$35, from Willis-on's Circus, where he was employed. Prisoner admitted the charge in part, saying that he found some of the articles. Mr. B. Willis-on said he identified the property found in prisoner's possession as belonging to various members of the company. Prisoner was stopped at the circus gate with a bundle under his coat, containing some of the stolen articles. Prisoner's box was searched and a number of other missing articles were found in it. Prisoner had been in his (Mr. Willis-on's) employ for about two years, and he (witness) had an idea that there was some one in the circus who had put the prisoner up to stealing the things.

Mr. A. Viret, deposed that a purse (produced) was his property. It was taken on Wednesday night, there were over \$20 in it. Witness left it in his pocket in the dressing room at the circus.

Prisoner said that he only found \$8, a five dollar note and three dollars, in the purse. He said he found the purse the following morning. Had he found it on the night previous he would have returned it.

Mr. W. Silveni, sworn, said that he recognised the revolver and bunch of keys produced as belonging to him. He missed the revolver about three nights previous, but suspected no one in particular. Witness was present when the revolver and keys were found in prisoner's box.

Prisoner said that one of the horse-men, named George, gave him the revolver and kept one himself.

Witness said that the man referred to by prisoner was the head groom, a Malay. Another revolver was missed some time previous to the theft of the one produced.

Prisoner elected to be dealt with summarily and His Worship sentenced him to be imprisoned for one month, with hard labour.

12th July.

Before R. W. MANSFIELD, Esq., Assistant Judge.

R. v. WALKER AND NEAD.

Joseph Walker, and Henry Nead, coloured, were charged with creating a disturbance in the Yuenfong Road, and wounding a baby by throwing a stone.

The child's mother deposed that the child was in her shop, when one of the prisoners threw a stone through the window and struck the child over the eye.

Ta Chou-kuei, a barber, said that the prisoners broke a lamp globe and a wash-basin in his shop.

P'ang Lung, wife of the previous witness, said that at 6 p.m. on Sunday, prisoners came into the shop. Walker had a large stick, with which he broke the articles described.

The prisoner Walker said he ran into the shop for refuge from a number of people who were pursuing him, and denied having the stick in his hand.

Native P.C. 512 said he was on duty in Seward Road and saw a crowd outside a house and was told there was a foreigner inside creating a disturbance. Witness went inside and arrested Walker. The house was in Chaufoong Road. Prisoner was not violent when he was arrested. He (prisoner) had had a cut on the head. The other prisoner was arrested by some

bystanders and handed over to witness subsequently. He was not violent.

Walker said that the cut on his head was caused by a basin, which was thrown at him in the barber's shop. He said that he did not throw any stones.

His Worship ordered prisoners to pay \$2 as compensation to the parents of the injured child and \$1 damages.

INQUEST.

Shanghai, 15th July.

Before H. F. BRADY Esq., Coroner, and Messrs. W. R. KAHLER, E. PAGE, and W. B. CHEETHAM, Jury.

Re DEATH OF A. WHITE.

An inquest was held in H.M.'s Police Court to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of A. White, late of the ship *Belmont*.

Mr. Eveleigh, identified the body as that of A. White. He had been discharged from the steamer *Ataka*, and had shipped on board the sailing vessel *Belmont* on the 13th inst., as A.B. Deceased had lived at the Sailors' Home since the 15th of June. On the previous night shortly before 10 o'clock witness was in bed, when he was informed that a sailor had died in one of the rooms. Witness proceeded to the room and saw the body, which was that of A. White, and then telephoned to Dr. Henderson, Jr., who came down immediately and pronounced life extinct. Deceased was of a peaceful disposition, even when under the influence of drink. He had been drinking during his residence in the Home. A sailor named Crockford informed witness that he had put deceased to bed and when he last saw him he (deceased) was singing a song.

Edward Crockford, sworn, said he was at present living in the Sailors' Home. He had seen the body at the Home on that morning. Witness knew deceased but could not say what his name was. On the previous evening witness was standing at the door of the Home. Deceased drove up in a ricksha. He was so drunk that he could not walk without assistance. Witness went to his help and assisted him upstairs, and put him to bed. Two other men assisted witness to undress the deceased. Deceased was quite conscious and when witness left him he was singing. Witness left the deceased about 8 o'clock and on his return at about a quarter to ten deceased was lying on the bed, dead. No other person entered the room during that time to witness's knowledge. The body was removed to another room by the superintendent's orders. Deceased should have gone on board the *Belmont* on Wednesday morning.

Dr. E. Henderson, Jr., sworn, said he was called to the Sailors' Home at about 10.30 on the previous night, and saw deceased lying on his back in bed. He was then dead. The body was very hot, the temperature being 109°. Post-mortem rigidity was very marked. There was no sign of any injury on the body. Witness formed the opinion that death was due to heat apoplexy. He (witness) was informed that the deceased had been drinking heavily for the past month. A post-mortem examination was held and the brain found to be very much congested, bearing out witness's previous opinion of the cause of death.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from heat apoplexy, induced by excessive drinking.

CHINESE COURT OF ENQUIRY.

Shanghai, 9th July.

Before Taotai TSAI CHIU, President of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs at Nanking, and Sir NICHOLAS J. HANSEN, H.B.M.'s Consul-General.

BENNERTZ v. THE KIANGNAN DEFENCE AND PAY DEPARTMENT.

This was a resumed sitting of a Court constituted under the provisions of Article 17 of the Tientsin Treaty of 1858 and Section 2, Sub-section 3, of the Chefoo Convention 1876, to enquire into the claim by Messrs. Bennertz and Co. against the Kiangnan Defence and Pay Department.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, with whom was Mr. E. Nelson (Messrs Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. W. V. Drummond for the defendants.

Upon the Court assembling,

Mr. Wilkinson said that as regarded the translation of the charter-party he quite saw that Mr. Drummond's suggestion might facilitate business in ordinary cases, but in the present instance unfortunately he could not agree to any translation except Mr. Fox's as a basis, amended in case of disagreement by Mr. Scott and Mr. Fung Yee.

Mr. Drummond thought that if they could not agree upon a translation, the best way would be to go on the Chinese, and if any point of difference in translation arose in argument it could be settled by Mr. Scott and Mr. Fung Yee.

Mr. Bennertz, resuming his evidence, said that after he sent the telegram on the 8th of August to the Viceroy with Mr. Chu's concurrence, Mr. Chu wrote witness a letter on the 12th. (Produced.) This requested the witness to deliver up the steamer *Smith* (*Wooning*) at once to a person named in the document. Witness replied that his firm would be pleased to hand over the steamer as soon as the Department paid Messrs. Bennertz & Co.'s claim for wages, etc. The same day he sent a telegram to the Viceroy at Nanking, and was given to understand that subsequently an official called at the Consulate. On the 14th of August Mr. Chu called on witness and asked him to sign a document which had been drawn up at the Consulate. Witness saw Mr. Wilkinson who drew up a document and it was executed before Mr. Jamieson. He sent the document subsequently to the representative of the Department, Mr. Chu. It was an offer to cancel the agreement of the 18th of April and to hand over the *Wooning* and *Ningchow* upon payment of the sum of Tls. 25,000 on account of the sums expended upon the four steamers. Witness signed this document on the distinct understanding that it would be carried out by both sides. Since then the expenses had been enormously added to. The agreement was never acted on. Following its presentation, witness and Mr. Pollak had an interview with Mr. Chu, at which Mr. Ko was present. A good deal of discussion took place regarding the delivery of the steamers, the end of which was that Mr. Chu threatened to send soldiers on board to seize the vessels. After consulting with his legal adviser witness decided to send the *Ningchow* to Hongkong, so as to be in British waters. Before this, in the month of June, in contravention of the charter party, Mr. Chu had been interfering with the captains of the vessels. One letter he wrote complained of the captain of the *Sinfokien* to the following effect:—

I heard that the captain of *Sinfokien* is inhuman, and treats the passengers very impolitely as in the midnight when the passengers were in their rooms he goes to kick at their doors.

In navigating the ship in the Black Sea when the cyclone was very tremendous the

captain made the engine go very slowly, and thereby caused the steamer to go backward than forward.

The captain had a dispute with the first mate, and illegally dismissed the first mate and made the second mate as first mate.

The captain should be discharged or be changed, otherwise it will be too late to repent when there is any accident to the steamer.

It is my opinion that the captain, first mate and engineer may be requested to call at your office, and to be judged who is right and who is wrong; if the captain is truly wrong then he should be discharged, and should you continue to employ the captain then he must be asked to give a guarantee paper, which must be guaranteed by a certain bank for a sum of Tls. 60,000.

Kindly take this into consideration.

P.S. The first mate *Sinfokien* should be temporarily retained in your company, and should not be discharged at once, until we have examined the captain and first mate who is right and who is wrong, then we may decide to employ or to discharge the first mate.

Witness took no notice of the letter. Mr. Chu later sent him another letter threatening to stop the steamer if the captain of the *Sinfokien* were not changed. This was in the month of June, when two steamers had been delivered to witness's firm. The *Kiangning* was loaded and ready to proceed on a voyage to Hankow on the 24th of August. The Customs dues had been paid, and clearance was applied for. The Custom house refused to give the vessel clearance. Witness then wrote to the Commissioner and had an interview with him. Mr. Rocher said he was very sorry he could not give clearance, as the Shanghai Taotai was stopping the vessels. Witness estimated his loss through that voyage having to be abandoned at Tls. 5,000. He had a full cargo and complement of passengers, and a charter to bring down tea. Having sent the *Ningchow* to Hongkong he gave the defendants notice by telling Mr. Chu, when he came to his office. The next he heard was that the *Sinfokien* had been seized, detained, or confiscated at Chinkiang. On the 25th of August he telegraphed to the Viceroy complaining of the detention, and as his interpreter would not translate what he desired to send, he sent it in English. Witness was told by the Customs that the *Sinfokien* was detained at Chinkiang by order of the Chinkiang Taotai. He was told that the steamer was officially confiscated, but, however that might be, she was still in the possession of Messrs. Bennertz & Co.'s captain and crew. After this witness formally applied for clearance of the *Wooning*, although she could not, as a matter of fact, go a yard under her own steam. It was refused, the Customs saying that none of the steamers could go. On the 8th of September the *Ningchow* was seized at Hongkong by order of the Supreme Court in a suit instituted by the Emperor of China against the firm of Bennertz & Co. With regard to his evidence on the previous day as to the "fresh" estimate, witness explained that he had nothing to do with the former estimate which was made by a foreigner on behalf of the Department. Witness had seen the estimate.

Mr. Nelson called for the production of the document, which Mr. Drummond said he had not got. It was intimated that Mr. Sonne, who made the estimate, would be called and the matter was therefore left in abeyance.

Mr. Bennertz, resuming, said that on the 14th of August, after seeing Mr. Sonne's estimate, he wrote a letter to him, asking him to state in writing that it was impossible for him to make a report on the engines, not having seen them in working order. Mr. Sonne sent a reply, which the witness handed to Mr. Chu. (Produced.) When witness first saw the steamers they were without fittings, ropes, ship's papers or anything, and there was not a cabin fit for the officers to live in. According to

witness's chief engineer's report the engines were not all right.

At this stage the Court adjourned until 10.30 on Saturday morning.

10th July.

Upon the Court assembling,

Mr. Bennertz continued his evidence. He said after the boats were stopped the Chinese authorities placed alongside each a gunboat to prevent them leaving the harbour. The accounts which had been annexed to the petition included the liabilities and payments up to the 30th of April, not including the *Ningchow*. Roughly they amounted to Tls. 70,000. There was another account of some Tls. 12,000 for repairs, etc., expended upon the authority of Mr. Chu prior to the steamers being stopped. Witness was then taken through the petition, paragraph by paragraph, and declared them to be correct. He denied ever having had any loan or having received any money from the Department. He had received a private loan from Mr. Chu. About the 7th of August he received from Mr. Chu Tls. 1,000, and Tls. 600, for which Mr. Chu held his promissory notes. The note for Tls. 600 acknowledged the receipt of the sum "as an advance of crew's wages to be repaid within two months," and the note for Tls. 1,000 stated: "We hereby undertake to repay to his Honour Chu the sum of Tls. 1,000, which is a loan to be repaid within five days of the delivery of the steamers. The money will be used for the payment of crews and wages." He had not repaid either of these sums. All the sums which had been expended on the steamers had been with the Department's consent. It was not true, as alleged in the defendants' answer, that he was on the verge of insolvency when the ships were seized, although he was short of money on account of the Department not having paid him the sums he had expended on the ships. The assertion in the defendants' answer that he was not able to work the steamers at a profit was untrue. Questioned upon the other paragraphs of the defendants' answer, he said the Customs had not complained of the *Ningchow* clearing for Chefoo and then going to Hongkong. His intention in sending the *Ningchow* there was to sell her, after getting an order from the Court.

Captain George Rae said he was master of the *Wooning* and was appointed by Bennertz & Co. Was master of her until she was tied up, except on one occasion when he went in the *Sinfokien*. He believed he took command on the 19th of June, 1896. An inventory was taken by his chief officer and himself. Mr. Chu was present. The inventory was correct but it was unsatisfactory, there was not enough stuff on board the ship—such as ropes. That state of affairs referred to the deck department; he could say nothing about the engines. There was no proper rope to tow the steamer from the dock into the stream. There was an old rope which was used doubled, but it was too old to go at anything but very slow speed. The steamers had not been handed over then. The ship was then under the Chinese flag, but she had no papers. These were obtained from the Customs close up to the time the ship left. The ship sailed for the first time on the morning of the 26th of June, but witness was told that the joint of the man-hole door had blown out and that the ship could not start. Steam had to be taken off, and a tow boat had to be procured to tow the boat out into the stream. He saw Mr. Sonne standing on the wharf when the steamer was being towed out. He was on board that morning to set the safety valve, which was the usual duty of a surveyor. The *Wooning* broke down about seven miles out of Woosung up the river. It was fine weather. There was also trouble coming down the river. They could not get any steam up. He got all

the deck officers and deck hands to go down to try and get up steam. When the steamer broke down the cargo and passengers were brought back to Shanghai. Mr. Herzberg was the chief engineer. He had no reason to believe he was responsible for the breakdown. He never received orders from Bennertz & Co. to cause a breakdown. The cabin fittings were all gone and there were no dishes. The *Wooning* brought up at Shanghai and she had not since left it.

The Court then adjourned until 10.30 on Monday morning.

12th July.

Upon the Court assembling,

Mr. Bennertz was cross-examined by Mr. Drummond. He said he came to China in March, 1895, from Sumatra where he had been about nine months. He started from India in 1894 to promote a large business in *rhea* fibre. He was connected with the Sultan of Sadang to promote the industry of *rhea* growing. He had a contract with the Sultan under which the latter wanted to buy witness' patent for \$10,000 for that district. Besides this he had no other business in Sumatra. He did not establish a firm, and did no business as a general merchant in Sumatra. Prior to going to Sumatra he was in Calcutta, doing a general business, principally in fibre. His firm there was Bennertz & Co. from 1888 to 1893. When he came to China, it was for the purpose of the syndicate he represented. The contract with the Sultan of Sadang came to nothing, and a Dutch syndicate in Sumatra took up witness's scheme. He came here to buy *rhea* but the Sumatra syndicate also fell through. He established himself as a firm in Shanghai in February, 1896. Between the time of his arrival here and establishing his firm he had an agreement with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. to promote the interests of his Calcutta partners. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. under the agreement were entitled to 50 per cent of the profits. That contract with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. came to nothing. When he commenced business in February, 1896, it was to push the interests of the Calcutta syndicate, but he had engaged in other business also. The partnership agreement with Mr. Pollak was dated April, 1896. At that time, as long as business was sure, witness had any amount of capital at his command by means of credits from his Calcutta friends. Then his firm entered into contracts with regard to these four ships, the negotiations being conducted by both himself and his partner. At the time the first contract was made on the 16th of April his firm had no agents at the treaty ports on the Yangtze. The principal object was to run the steamers on the Yangtze. He had not arranged any wharfage accommodation anywhere on the Yangtze before making the contract. After the contract he had agents at the ports, Mr. Schlichting at Hankow, Messrs. Sietas & Co., Chefoo, Messrs. Wilson & Co., Tientsin, Messrs. Bandinel, Newchwang, and Mr. Emery, Chinkiang. At the other ports the agents were Chinese. He could not recollect their names, but would produce a list later. At the ports the steamers would anchor in the stream and the cargo would be landed by large boats, except in Hankow, where he had a wharf. His bankers in Shanghai were the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. When he entered into the contract he had command of ample capital for the purposes of the business. He was not aware that there was a judgment debt against him in the British Court for Tls. 335.81 before the present dispute began. He never borrowed any money to pay such a debt.

Mr. Drummond—Had you always sufficient money to pay your wages and portage bills?

Witness—Before the dispute I had always sufficient money to pay the portage bills.

This was up to the time of the breakdown of the *Wooning* on the 26th of July, 1896. Witness, continuing, said that this was the beginning of the trouble. He never borrowed money from the defendants but had done so from Mr. Chu. When he commenced the business of running the ships he had a compradore named Chang Pow-san, and two or three interpreters, the principal being named Kung. The compradore was still with witness, but the interpreter was dismissed in July, 1896, at the request of Mr. Chu. Witness was not aware that the interpreter sent a telegram to the Viceroy at Nanking without his knowledge. When he was dismissed witness made it public through the Chinese newspapers. He had no reason of his own for dismissing him. When the ships were taken over they were in a very bad state, having previously been employed as government transport vessels. After getting possession of them he had all the necessary fittings and changes made to fit them for trading vessels. To do so he got verbal authority from Mr. Chu, with whom he had almost daily communication. He had no written authority from the defendants or Mr. Chu authorising him to do more than purchase ropes, as everything else was done verbally.

Mr. Drummond—Do you say you were authorised under the contract to have the repairs made and supplies furnished, or do you say that you relied upon Mr. Chu's verbal authority?

Witness—I say it is according to the contract that these things had to be done, because the ships had to be given to me in a proper working state. Continuing, witness said clause 7 of the agreement was the one upon which he relied in this respect, and he might also take clause 4. He did not engage a special marine superintendent. Mr. Herzberg, the chief engineer of the *Wooning*, advised witness. Witness engaged and dismissed the officers, satisfying himself of the qualification of the captains and chief engineers, who were responsible for those under them. Besides witness and Mr. Pollak there was one other foreigner in the firm's office, Mr. Danenberg. Witness had in his possession a book which the late captain of the *Wooning* said was a log-book, but he (witness) did not recognise it, on the ground that it contained false entries. He produced the engineer's log-book.

Mr. Wilkinson objected to the book going in now, until Mr. Herzberg, the chief engineer, was called to say whether all the entries were correct or not.

Mr. Drummond argued that the present was a convenient and suitable time to put it in.

Mr. Wilkinson waived his objection, and the book was put in.

Witness, resuming, said he had no log-books relating to any other steamers, but he could get them if they were wanted. He declined, however, to produce the log-books of the *Ningchow*, at present in Hongkong. The defendants' officers handed over charge of the *Sinfokien* on the 3rd of June; the *Wooning* on either the 19th or 20th of June; the *Kiangning*, some time at the end of June; and the *Ningchow*, the beginning of July. In each case the application for the ship's papers was made by Mr. Chu. Witness' firm did not make any application to the Customs. Mr. Chu lent him three books in Chinese containing a list of the things on board the *Sinfokien*, *Wooning*, and *Ningchow*. He never saw a list for the *Kiangning*. Mr. Chu had frequently asked witness to return the books, but he had not done so as they were not complete. They did not specify whether the ropes, etc., were good or not, and witness therefore declined to give them up as Mr. Chu would demand the return of proper articles. When the captains took over the steamers they checked the list with Mr. Chu. Objections were made to the bad state of some of the articles, but no

marks were made in the inventories furnished to witness, which were really copies of the originals in the possession of Mr. Chu. All the ships except the *Kiangning* were surveyed by Mr. Sonne, Lloyd's surveyor. In the case of the *Kiangning* and the *Wooning* he gave certificates (produced) stating that all the repairs recommended by him had been completed to his satisfaction and classing them as 100 A1 at Lloyd's, the highest classification. He did not give a certificate for the *Sinfokien* as he had examined her before, and said it was not necessary to give another certificate. The *Sinfokien*, *Wooning*, and *Ningchow* were insured for Tls. 40,000 each in the China Traders', the policies being in the possession of Mr. Chu.

At this stage the Court rose for the day

13th July.

Upon the Court assembling,

Mr. Bennertz was further cross-examined by Mr. Drummond. He said he would not like to pass an opinion upon Mr. Sonne's certificates, but certainly some of the work he recommended was not done. Pressed upon the point, witness said the certificates were not truthful. The machinery of all the steamers was in a bad state. Before she broke down altogether the *Wooning* made two round trips to Hankow. He first discovered the bad state of the machinery of the *Wooning* in the month of June and reported the matter to Mr. Chu, with whom he was in daily communication. He made no written complaints and did not offer to return the ships. The Chinese flag had not been removed from the steamers. When the *Ningchow* went to Hongkong he did not deposit her papers as security for the coal he obtained; the papers went with the ship. He got the coal from Messrs. Schiller and Co.

Mr. Drummond—Did you at any time deposit the papers with Schiller and Co. as security for the coal?

Witness—At Hongkong, yes. Mr. Oberg went down with the ship. The Captain was in charge of the papers. I do not know where the papers are now. Continuing, the witness said he did not mortgage the ship's papers as security for the payment for coal. The statement in the telegram he sent on the 11th of July, 1896, to the Viceroy, that the boilers of the *Smith* were rotten and rusty was correct.

Some little discussion took place upon the translation of this telegram. Mr. Drummond's translation was to the effect that the steamer had been "trying" to get away for seven days, but the plaintiffs' contention was that they had "wished" to get away for seven days.

Mr. Bennertz said that for some days the steamer was being repaired, in the effort to get her ready to go away.

Mr. Drummond—Did you on the 13th of July send another telegram asking for a reply?

Witness—I do not know, but if you have it you can produce the telegram.

Mr. Wilkinson—Do I understand, you, Mr. Drummond, to put the question without producing the telegram? Such a question is usually followed by the production of the document.

Mr. Drummond—That is my business.

Mr. Bennertz in further cross-examination said that after seeing Mr. Sonne's certificates, and finding out the state of the steamers, he did not see the use of applying to Mr. Sonne for an explanation as he had nothing to do with Mr. Sonne. Witness admitted that the statement he wrote to the Commissioner of Customs on the 6th of August, giving a reason for giving up the ships was untrue. In the letter he said his firm were giving up the ships on account of the difficulty of getting wharfage and godown accommodation.

Mr. Drummond—What reason had you for telling a falsehood to the Commissioner?

Witness—I did not want to tell the Commissioner that the Government was sick of doing these repairs, and of keeping them in good order. Mr. Chu asked me not to state so, and I gave what I thought would be a reason. I could state to the Commissioner anything I liked.

Mr. Drummond—You could tell him either the truth or a lie?

Witness—If you take it as a lie you can take it as such. Proceeding, he said there were several discussions with Mr. Chu regarding the return of the steamers, and Mr. Chu approved of the excuse put forward. On the 4th of August Mr. Chu wrote him a letter, and the next morning called to see him. Witness asked Mr. Chu how he expected the steamers back, seeing that witness had gone into heavy expenses, and he would only agree to return the steamers if all the expenses were paid. Mr. Chu and he eventually came to a verbal agreement.

At this stage the Court rose for the day.
14th July.

Upon the Court assembling, Mr. Bennertz was further cross-examined by Mr. Drummond. He produced the log-book of the *Wooning*.

Mr. Wilkinson said that the log-book was an important document in a serious charge which Mr. Bennertz had brought against the captain of the *Wooning* in the German Court, and he asked that if it were put in it might be taken out later if required for the purposes of the case in the German Court.

Sir Nicholas Hannen said that the Taotai agreed with him that that Court, like every other Court in the civilised world, would assist any other Court in any way in its power. If it should become necessary for any documents or exhibits to be produced in any other Court, the Court now sitting would assist that other Court in every way in its power.

Mr. Bennertz, continuing, produced the captain's and engineer's logs of the *Kiang-ning*. Since the previous sitting he had found that the telegram of the 13th of July, to the Department, requesting an answer to a previous message, was sent by him. He did not at any time tell Mr. Chu that the telegrams of the 11th and 13th of July were sent by the interpreter Kung without his (witness's) knowledge. When he chartered these steamers it had nothing to do with his *rhea* fibre business, but he intended to carry passengers and goods in the ordinary way.

Mr. Drummond—On the 8th of August you sent a long letter written in Chinese to Tseng Taotai.

Witness—I am not aware of it.

Mr. Drummond—Is that your signature? (Document produced.)

Witness—It is my firm's signature, signed by Mr. Pollak.

Mr. Drummond read the letter which related the troubles in consequence of the bad state of the steamers, and made a request to be allowed to throw up the charter, upon certain terms.

Mr. Bennertz, continuing, said a similar letter was given to Mr. Chu at the same time. At the time the letter was written witness discussed it and agreed upon it with his partner, Mr. Pollak. With regard to his letter to Mr. Chu of the 5th of August, in which he agreed to do certain things, on his part Mr. Chu agreed to the terms in the letter, and witness considered the matter was settled. Mr. Chu approved of the letter to the Commissioner of Customs being written. Witness first discovered that Mr. Chu would not agree to the terms when he received the letter of the 12th of August. On the 7th of August witness' belief that the matter was settled was strengthened by Mr. Chu advancing him: Tls. 1,000 and Tls. 600 on the understanding that the money was to be repaid five days after the handing over of the ships.

Mr. Drummond—Being at that time in the full belief that you had settled the

difficulty with Mr. Chu, how came you to write that letter?

Witness—Mr. Chu told me that he was in trouble, and when we were discussing the matter he said I had better write to his superior officer Tseng.

Mr. Drummond—In this letter of the 8th you do not say anything about the arrangement to return the steamers that you considered you had made with Mr. Chu, or the dates for return of the steamers?

Witness—No, Mr. Chu did not want it then.

Asked how the statement in his telegram of the 8th of August that Mr. Chu "declines to have anything to do with the money we have advanced," could be reconciled with the alleged agreement of the 5th of August with Mr. Chu, Mr. Bennertz said he thought when he made the agreement that Mr. Chu had full authority, but he came to witness later and said he was getting into trouble. He did not think the statements in the two documents were in contradiction. On the 8th Mr. Chu told witness Tseng Taotai would not repay the advances, as Mr. Chu had agreed on the 5th. If that had been all Mr. Chu said it might have upset the arrangement of the 5th, but Mr. Chu added that he would try again.

After some farther questions regarding a letter of the 14th of August to Tseng Taotai from the witness's firm, the Court rose for the day.

15th July.

Upon the Court assembling,

Mr. Bennertz was further cross-examined by Mr. Drummond. He said that on the 14th of August, 1896, he executed the document at the British Consulate after a conversation with Mr. Chu at his (witness's) office. Mr. Chu said he must have some document signed at the Consulate to send to the Viceroy, and witness accordingly instructed Mr. Wilkinson to draw it up. By the document the witness suggested that Tls. 25,000 should be deposited in the Consulate pending an examination as to how much was due to him. If they had paid the Tls. 25,000 into the Consulate he would have handed over the *Wooning* and *Ningchow*, and would have expected to get the balance due to him. The Tls. 25,000 were to be paid to witness, and if they had any claim against him the Department could have brought it through the Consulate. The document he regarded as perfectly fair, but he expected the Department officials to look after themselves.

Mr. Drummond asked the witness to say whether he agreed with the following statement by Mr. Chu or not. "On that evening he (Bennertz) sent me a document signed by the Consul in which it says Tls. 25,000 must be paid before the vessels would be given up. It was not until after having received this letter that I spoke to Mr. Bennertz that the sum in dispute was only Tls. 5,000 or Tls. 6,000, but if \$10,000 or Tls. 10,000 be required to deposit in the Consulate and a receipt for it be signed by the Consul and the case then referred to arbitration so that whatever should be paid by me should be deducted from the money deposited, provided always that the deposit be returned to me in case nothing should be paid by me, and also that whatever he was indebted to me should be recovered by the Consulate."

Mr. Bennertz said he had no such conversation with Mr. Chu. Continuing, he said he had no recollection of directing a certain letter in Chinese (produced) to be sent to Tseng Taotai on the 24th of August. The letter (produced) dated the 25th of August, also to Tseng Taotai, the witness admitted sending.

Mr. Drummond pointed out that it began, "We wrote you yesterday, but are without any reply."

Witness said the first letter referred to was not signed by him and he could not recollect all the letters.

Mr. Drummond read the letter of the 25th of August which stated that the firm were being pressed by their creditors; complained of the detention of the *Kiang-ning*; and threatened to sell the *Cass* (*Ningchow*) within two days under foreign law.

Witness said the same day he sent a telegram to the Viceroy threatening to sell the steamer. On the 29th of August the *Sinfokien* was stopped. On the 23rd of November he received an offer of settlement, and on the 10th of December his legal adviser replied refusing the offer: no counter-proposal was made. On the 16th of January last he received an offer to refer the whole matter to arbitration, and instructed Mr. Wilkinson to decline it. His reason for declining it was that the case had gone too far; the Chinese authorities had stopped his business and violated the treaties, and had refused to take advantage of his offer to go to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Drummond—Could you not have got complete justice by an arbitration before foreigners?

Witness—Certainly I could.

Mr. Drummond—The Chinese authorities agreed not only that one arbitrator should be appointed on each side, but they agreed also that the arbitrators appointed by both sides should be foreigners. Did you give any reason at the time for refusing the arbitration?

Witness—No reasons were given. I think some sort of counter-proposal was made later. At my request the proposal was made that the Chinese authorities should admit their liability, and arbitrate as to the amount to be paid by them for the detention of the steamers.

Mr. Drummond—When you made that proposal had not the defendants all through denied their liability?

Witness—No.

Mr. Drummond—Do you say they had admitted their liability?

Witness—I say that when the defendants on the 23rd of November offered to pay the wages of the officers and crew on all the steamers they admitted their liability.

At this stage the Court rose for the day.

POISONED FROM HEAD TO FOOT.

We call particular attention to the subjoined statement. No incident of its kind, of equal interest and importance, has occurred of late years. A declaration so startling in its general scope, and so full of corroborative detail, certainly warrants the conclusion that a new epoch in the healing art has dawned upon us. Aside from the force of the legal forms which it assumes, the facts, as alleged, rest upon the results of a thorough and careful investigation.

(Copy.)

I, George Lack, of 123, Stamford Street, Waterloo Road, London, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

"I was always a strong, healthy man up to April, 1876. At this time, whilst engaged at the Stamford Street Embroidery Works, cleaning out a tank which had been used for pyeing purposes, I slipped and fell in the tank (which was covered with verdigris), cutting both my elbows. The parts soon became swollen, and in a week's time the flesh was putrid, as if gangrene had set in. My system seemed to be poisoned, and I began to lose strength rapidly, for my appetite left me and I could not bear the sight of food; what little I did eat lay on my chest like lead. I went to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, where I was under treatment for five weeks, but I got worse. After this I got an order and went into the Lameth Infirmary, where I was placed in No. 11 Ward. At this time my condition had become serious for I felt so sick and faint that I could scarcely move, and, after a time, I got so bad that I could only get up for an hour or two each day. Later large abscesses formed on my shoulder, and gradually spread over my face and the upper part of my body. My face was completely covered with the

abscesses, which, on healing, left deep marks, that I bear to this day. After this, I had swelling around the joints, and large abscesses formed in the calf of my leg, and I had also running wounds, extending from the top of my ankle to the bottom of my feet. An offensive discharge of matter came from the parts and it seemed as if the abscesses were drawing the life out of me. I was now in a hopeless, helpless state, and felt that I did not care how soon my end came. For days and days I never closed my eyes, and on one occasion I had but little sleep for eighteen days and nights together, the doctor's sleeping draughts having no effect upon me. When I did at length fall asleep I slept from Thursday to Sunday afternoon. From all the doctor's medicines and applications I only got temporary relief. On one occasion the doctor said that I could not live throughout the day. The nurse placed a screen round my bed, expecting that I should die during the day, and my brother was sent for. When the doctor called at night he was surprised to find me alive. However, I took a turn for the better, but for months afterwards I was, as it were, on the brink of the grave. I had to be lifted in and out of bed, and was fed on slops and light food. Sometimes better, and at other times worse, I continued in this wretched state for over FIVE YEARS during which time I remained in the hospital. In August, 1881, I became tired of being in the hospital, and was carried to my house. I was so weak and emaciated that I got a pair of crutches to help me to hobble about the house. My father and friends who saw me were shocked at my feeble and emaciated appearance, and thought I was not long for this world. I lingered on in the same wretched state for two more years, expecting and wishing that I should soon be out of my misery. In November, 1883, after suffering over seven years, my father bought me a bottle of medicine called Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and persuaded me to try it, saying that it had been of great benefit to him. After I had taken half the contents of a bottle, I felt brighter and in better spirits than I had been in for years. My appetite improved, and by continuing with the medicine my legs began to heal, and I got stronger and stronger. In less than three months I was able to put aside my crutches and walk with the aid of a stick. After I had taken Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup six months, I was back at my work as strong as ever I was in my life, and have since kept in the best of health. I wish the particulars of my case known to other sufferers, and the Proprietors have my consent to make what use they like of this statement. And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act, 1835 (Will. IV. c. 62).

(Signed) "George Lack."

Declared at No. 16, Godliman Street, Doctor's Commons, in the City of London, this 13th day of April, 1893, before me, (Signed) George H. Brooks, a Commissioner for Oaths.

Here we have a case of profound and persuasive blood poisoning. Verdigris (chemically, the bibasic acetate of copper) is when introduced into the circulation, a slow poison, for which no positive antidote is known. There is no doubt that the physicians in the hospitals did all that could be done, with the knowledge and resources at their command. Unhappily their treatment, at best, was only mildly palliative; the poison continued its deadly work until it saturated the poor fellow's entire system and perverted all its functions. What but an ultimately fatal result could have been reasonably expected?

Mr. Lack's final and perfect recovery, through the use of Seigel's Syrup, illustrates beyond the need of comment, the unprecedented power of that well-known remedy to renew the digestion, stimulate the secretory organs, and thus to purify the blood. In common with all who shall read the details of this case, we most keenly regret that Seigel's Syrup was not taken immediately after the results of the accident first appeared.

(2) 9, 16 23ij 205

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTHS.

At No. 52, Szechuen Road, Shanghai, on the 8th of July, 1897, the wife of Wm. AGG. WHITE, of a son.

At Chouping, Shantung, N. China, on the 23rd of June, 1897, the wife of the Rev. E. W. BURT, B.A., of a son.

At United States Consulate, Tientsin, on Sunday, the 27th of June, 1897, the wife of SHERIDAN P. READ, U.S. Consul, of a son.

DEATHS.

At Shanghai, on the 10th of July, 1897, JOHN JACKSON, Shipwright, Boyd & Co., Ltd., late of Govan, Scotland, aged 37 years.

At Shanghai, on the 12th of July, 1897, HEINRICH J. JURGENS, aged 72 years.

The interment will take place from the Mortuary Chapel, New Cemetery, at 6 p.m., to-day. Friends are invited to attend.

At Shanghai, on the 14th of July, 1897, H. C. MILLER, a citizen of the U.S.A., late with S. Hankin & Co., aged 32 years.

On the 14th of July, 1897, at 14, Boone Road, after a long and painful illness, LUCY LEE, the beloved wife of I. W. ALLEN, aged 39 years.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Ravenna*, for London—Mr. D. Smith. For Brindisi—Rev. D. M. Stearns and Mr. G. Mudge. For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Dexones.

Per str. *Belgia*, for San Francisco—Dr. J. Fryer, Messrs. H. Lehmann, J. W. Snyder, and H. Brewer. For Nagasaki—Mrs. Overyn, Mrs. Tokmakoff, Misses Stewart, Snowden, and Volger, Mrs. and Miss Zedelius and 2 boys, Mrs. Warwick Winston and child, Messrs. W. Quassowski, F. A. Ellert, F. E. Reilly, H. C. Muller, A. Onshy, E. Wemper, and A. H. Heath. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Ziegler, Messrs. E. T. Byrne, J. Thyen, P. Arnold, and M. C. Witmuss. For Yokohama—Mrs. C. Kerr, Mrs. Dudgeon, child and maid, Messrs. F. Bornemann, J. Butcher, and J. Rief.

Per str. *Kobe Maru*, for Nagasaki—Miss Cardwell, Mrs. W. S. Jackson, Rev. J. E. Cardwell, Messrs. F. Voss and 3 children, C. Hennecke, Salucci, V. Gottwald, Courtwright, H. Cornwell, P. P. Roberts, P. Hunt, K. Sagiyama, and B. K. neshima. For Kobe—Rev. and Mrs. Wood and 2 children, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Fujino, Messrs. C. Bently, G. Takau, K. Tsuvaga, and Fujino. For Vladivostok—Mr. Langelutje. For Yokohama—Mrs. Cardwell and 2 children, Revs. C. M. Cardwell and son, and F. B. Webb, Miss Shinta, Messrs. J. de Rijke, R. J. Gillings, J. N. Lloyd, and L. A. Carst. 24 in steerage.

Per str. *Hiogo Maru*, for Nagasaki—Mr. T. Nadajin. For Jinsen—Mr. J. F. Kraemer. For Vladivostok—Mr. A. R. Morris. 9 in steerage.

Per str. *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong—Mr. James McKie.

Per str. *Coptic*, for Hongkong—Mrs. A. Clarke, and Mr. C. Harling.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, for Hankow—Mr. A. Smith.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, for Pootoo—Dr. O. Stuebel, and Mrs. Clarke.

Per str. *Tatung*, for Nanking—Messrs. Bengue, and Cholnokv.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Tientsin—Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Ehlers.

Per str. *Hainyu*, for Tientsin—Mr. Lelièvre.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, for Wuhu—Bishop Garnier.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Tientsin—Mr. and Mrs. Apar. For Chefoo—Mrs. Gipperich and 3 daughters.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Tientsin—Capt. I. Smith, and Mr. C. Sprague.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Misses (2) Youngson.

Per str. *Ngankin*, for Chinkiang—Rev. S. J. Hudson, and Mr. W. D. King.

Per str. *Haeshin*, for Foochow—Mr. J. Hinton.

Per str. *Kaifong*, for Tientsin—Mr. Vand-rogen.

Per str. *Tungchow*, for Chefoo—Miss Parkhill.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Thames*, from London—Mr. and Mrs. Allen and child, Mr. and Mrs. Keith and child, Misses Trevor, and McMuir, Messrs. Plummer, Verity, E. Sprague, Bullard, Favre, and Jaffebroy.

Per str. *Java*, from London—Messrs. W. G. Feast, H. Bell, and H. Neville.

Per str. *Coptic*, from San Francisco—Mr. and Mrs. S. Apar, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Holland, Messrs. W. W. Hoole, R. Debuffet, R. E. Dffenferfer, and Federoff. For Hongkong—Messrs. A. S. Mihara, F. M. Barber, T. G. Ogilvy and H. Mericke.

Per str. *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver—Mrs. Gunzburger, 2 children and servant, Messrs. Delorme, and Henry Smith. 71 in steerage, 18 in transit and 6 in the mediate.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, from Y. Kobama—Mr. and Mrs. Pollard and children, Messrs. N. Jinbo, Fujita, H. Tshuchiya, J. Handelmann, Kole, Hong Ho-wan, Tong Pow Ching, Nonomura, Paulsen, and Dirakoff. 6 Europeans.

Per str. *Woosung*, from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Cartman and child, Mr. McKinnou.

Per str. *Choyang*, from Hongkong and Swatow—Mrs. Heard and 4 children, Messrs. Malow, Grenergi, and Philippo.

Per str. *Belgia*, from Hongkong for Shanghai—Mrs. Burns. For Kobe—Mr. Juan Manzano. For Yokohama—Miss J. J. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Souza and family, Capt. G. C. Anderson, and Mr. G. Stafford Northcote. For Honolulu—Mr. Wong Chong. For San Francisco—Rev. and Mrs. Mckey, and Mr. F. Sykes.

Per str. *Lyeemooon*, from Canton and Hongkong—Mr. C. Glenk; 109 Chinese.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Rev. Jaussen, Misses Stewart and Snowden.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Revs. Y. M. Buffet and M. Creton, Mr. Kaneshima, and Dr. Butchart.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Mr. and Mrs. Williamson.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, from Ichang—Mr. A. G. H. Carruthers. From Nanking—Dr. and Mrs. Merrin. From Chinkiang—Mr. H. J. H. Kirchhoff.

Per str. *Chungking*, from Tangku, etc.—Mr. and Mrs. Clark, and Mr. Gregson.

Per str. *Amping*, from Tientsin—Messrs. Guillaud, and Weng.

Per str. *Hsinyu*, from Chefoo—Messrs. A. Meyer, and J. Knapp.

Per str. *Paohua*, from Hankow—Mrs. Gould, and Miss Besohmidt.

Per str. *Ngankin*, from Hankow—Mrs. Allen, Messrs. Britto, Lemke, Cox, Roberts, Krensis, and tarkey.

Per str. *Hoihow*, from Amoy—Mr. Blampied.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Pootoo—Mr. and Mrs. Browett, Mrs. Clarke and 3 daughters, Messrs. Danforth, Moorhead, Everall, Stuebel, Campbell, and Bell.

Per str. *Sual*, from Hankow—Mrs. J. A. Scott and family, Mr. F. J. Harris, Masters Sinclair, and Gordon Nazer.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, from Hankow—Capt. Grayson, Miss Pelew, and Mr. Lankbon.

Per str. *El Dorado*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Capt. Friend.

Per str. *Yuenoo*, from Hankow Messrs. D. Haimovitch, Staulbe, and Konoukoff.

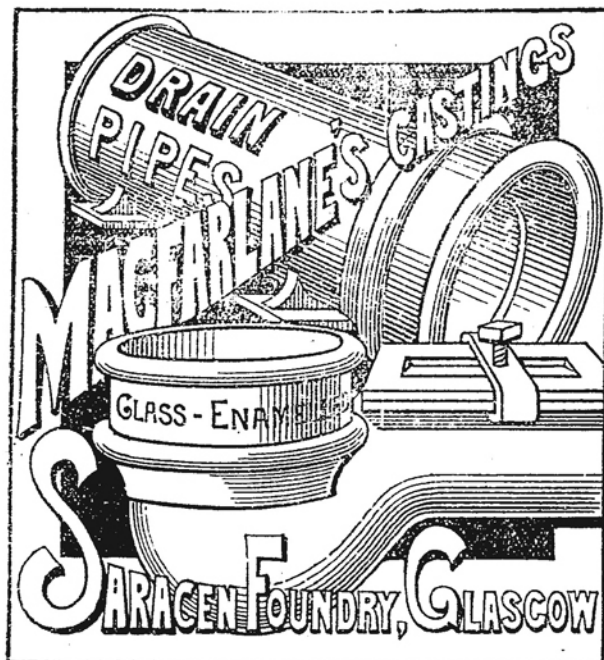
Per str. *Shengking*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Messrs. Feere, and Sharpe.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		Wind.	Hygrom- eter at 9 A.M.		Thermom- eter in shade.		Latitude.
	a.	Atmospheric.		Force.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.		Min.
Ju.								
10	29.50	85.5 S.		3 85.5	89.5	95.0	78.0	B.
11	29.50	85.0 S.W.		3 85.0	89.0	94.0	80.0	C.
12	29.77	88.0 S.E.		4 88.0	78.5	95.0	79.0	B.
13	29.84	92.0 S.W.		3 92.0	80.5	95.0	83.5	B.
14	29.82	92.5 S.W.		3 92.5	1 05	2 95.0	83.5	B.
15	29.76	93.0 S.W.		3 93.0	81.5	1 10	83.5	B.
16	29.73	93.0 S.W.		2 92.0	81.0	1 10	83.9	B.

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.



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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 15th July.)

PIECE GOODS.—Shanghai was bound not to be left in this "record" year only this week two being broken, namely, by the lowness of Exchange and the height of the thermometer. The intricacies of the former are dealt with under that heading. As regards the latter the continuance of the unusual heat at this time of the year is doing incalculable injury to both the Rice and Cotton crops. That, under the circumstances, we are able to report a strong and active market speaks volumes for the trade, but how long it is going to continue is a question which is already causing much anxious thought. What with the depreciation of silver as applied to Gold and the appreciation of Copper Cash in the same relation to Silver, the sticking point cannot be far off, when a reorganisation of the whole trade will have to come about. At present the middle men, between the supplier and the consumer, stand to be shot at both ways, a state of things that cannot last. To make anything out of the business caterers for this market must study more closely its requirements and avoid piling up such huge stocks as those depicted on the third page hereof. With such supplies hanging over them, amounting in some cases to as much as two thirds of a year's consumption, it is next to impossible to carry on a successful trade, surrounded as it is by untold uncertainties. The question is one which requires very careful thought and consideration right now!

Business, though less in extent than last week from first hands, has continued on much the same lines so far as ENGLISH goods are concerned, but a considerable trade has been done in AMERICAN makes both from stock and to arrive, and also between the natives themselves. It is all being done in anticipation of orders from TIENSIN and HANKOW, and no doubt to some extent to secure the Exchange, which was threatening to drop some days before it actually did. There is no special news of interest from our dependencies, the want of rain appears to be the common complaint, on all sides. Clearances, especially of AMERICAN goods, have been heavy this week. The Auctions have denoted a steady firm market for Cottons, but Woollens have failed to hold their own for the most part.

The MANCHESTER market is strong and quotations are mostly higher, forward business has therefore been limited. Cotton is dearer, private telegrams to-day quoting it 4½ d. Prices are higher for goods in the STATES and extended delivery is required for most of the Standard makes. Supplies here already should be sufficient for the season.

Stocks.—The returns as published by the Chamber of Commerce will be found on the page 146. They do not call for much comment, in fact they conform quite as closely as could be expected with the estimate based on the 31st December returns, considering the Imports and Re-exports have not all been published by the Customs yet. The estimated stocks on the 4th page will in future be based on these figures.

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—A large business has been done again, the sales as reported aggregating fully 175,000 pieces, namely—Blue Fisherman £1.70/71, Man and Gong, Black Tea Caddy, and Green Pak-shu-doo £1.85, Red Two Flag £1.90, Blue Fish £.92½, Red Dragon and 7 Boys £2.02, Stork (Dutch) £2.02½, Blue Cock and Red Pheasant £2.07½, Red Two Lion and Flag £2.08½, Green Lion and Flag £2.09, Blue 3 Dog, Silver Sycee, Red Rhinoceros and Red Cormorant £2.10, Peacock (Dutch) and Blue Buffalo £2.12½, Silver Castle £2.12½/15, Blue 2 Flag £2.15, Blue Swan £2.17, Red Stag, Blue 2 Pheasant and Red Joss £2.17½, Six Boy £2.20, Green Dragon and 5 Old Men and Red Tea Caddy £2.25, and Blue Dragon and 5 Old Men £2.42½/43. The majority of these are to arrive, and and show a very firm market. Auction prices are firm and tend upwards.

Light Weights.—An exceptionally large business has been done in 7-lbs. this week, amounting to over 35,000 pieces and comprising, Red Stork £1.55, Eagle and Fish £1.56½, Blue Stork £1.57½, Unicorn £1.65, Flag £1.80 and Tree £1.82½, nearly all to arrive. Nothing is reported in the lighter weights but they were a little firmer at Auction, while 7-lbs. were inclined to droop.

Heavy Weights.—Transactions have been unimportant, the only two reported being 10-lbs. Double Eagle at £2.60 and Blue Unicorn at £2.85. The market seems steady enough but without orders at present. Prices at Auction were slightly higher on the average.

12-lbs., 36-inch.—This make is coming in for more attention and sales are reported of nearly 25,000 pieces, but we know more than that has been done. Quotations published are, CCC at £2.65, 000 at £2.82½, Elephant and Cock £2.85, Three Stork £2.97½, Sailor £3.20, Beaver £3.32 and Man and Spear GGG £3.45. There is a firmer feeling and Auction prices keep very steady.

White Shirtings.—A quiet demand continues but the sales published do not amount to more than 15,000 pieces, as follows:—In 64-reels: Green Cock £2.35, Blue Cock £2.55 and Dewhurst Eagle and Red Stamp £2.65, and in higher reels: Pipe £3.15, Red Round Dragon £3.80, and sundry small parcels at from £3.85 to £4.50. Auction prices were slightly higher for most makes.

T-Cloths.—7 lbs.—Spot business continues on a moderate scale, the sales reported are:—Green Pagoda £1.33, Three Fish £1.47½ and Black Man and Stag 250 £1.55. Auction prices steady.

Drills.—English.—A sale is reported of 1,500 pieces Wheelbarrow at £2.92½ to arrive, and an indent for 200 bales common make has gone through. Better qualities are a long way out.

American.—Transactions that have come to our knowledge this week, from first hands, to arrive and resales amount to over 120,000 pieces, about a third of which comes under the latter category. Quotations given are, Blue Old Man £3.12½, Boott Cock £3.20, Piedmont Horse £3.20, Dragon's Head £3.20, Three Goat £3.25, Centaur £3.27½ and Pepperell Dragon £3.47½. The sales to arrive include, Massachusetts, Williston, Clifton and Piedmont, all on a sterling basis. There is certainly a better feeling at the moment and prices are getting more satisfactory.

Sheetings.—English.—Sales of 8,000 pieces are mentioned, namely Flag at £2.85 and Bismarck at £2.90, the former to arrive. The market is steady and so are prices at Auction.

Indian.—About 5,000 pieces of these makes have been placed, namely, 12-lbs. Flying Horse and Half Moon £2.60, and 14-lbs. Sassoon's Lion £2.90, slightly milled.

American.—In the same way as with Drills sales are reported of some 75,000 pieces this week, as follows: Elephant £2.74, Augusta and Eagle and Snake £2.90, Large Joss and Dragon's Head £3.10, Buck's Head £3.12½, Piedmont Horse £3.17½ and Massachusetts £3.27½, and also the latter "to arrive" at a sterling price. The market is improving slowly.

Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—As far as the quantity is concerned a moderately satisfactory business has been done during the interval, but it has been almost entirely by the brokers, the merchants being unable to pay present rates, which are about two taels over those ruling at any of the markets in the country. Holders are naturally firm on account of the decline in Exchange. Sales amount to 1,738 bales as follows, showing an advance of a tael all round.

No. 10s., 525 bales—Wadia Mill £68.5, Vithaldas (Copoldas) Woman £69.25/70.00, Hope Mill £69.75/70.00, Saraswati £70.00, Bombay Cotton, Mule and Currimbhoy, Ring £72.00/73.00, Howard and Bullough £72.50/73.00 and Framjee Petit, Fish £73.50/73.75.

No. 12s., 112 bales—Currimbhoy, Mule £74.50/74.75.

No. 16s., 263 bales—Victoria, Ring and Goolambaba £78.25, Currimbhoy Mule, £79.75/80.00 and Franjee Petit, Fish, £79.25/80.75.

No. 20s., 839 bales—Beg Mahomed and New Great Eastern, £77.00, Indo-China, £78.00/78.25, Vithaldas (Copoldas), Woman, £77.50, Connaught and S-raswati, £78.75, Ripon Mule, £78.00/79.50, Jafferalli Ring, £79.00, Goolambaba £79.25/79.50, Star of India, Ring and Jubilee Ring, £80.00.

The P. & O. s.s. *Tham-s* is the only arrival with 3,725 bales.

Japanese.—The market is strong and a tael higher for these Spinnings, the sales this week amounting to 821 bales as follows:—

No. 16s. 625 bales.—Peach £78½/79½, Bird £78½/79½, Horse £79½, Elephant and Pagoda £79½ and Peacock £79½.

No. 20s. 186 bales.—Blue Fish £81½, Peacock £81½, Elephant and Horse £72 and Butterfly £82½.

Fancy Goods.—With the exception of the settlement of another 400 cases AMERICAN Cotton Flannels, to arrive, we do not hear of any business of interest.

Woollens.—Privately a further small quantity of CAMLETS has been contracted for, mostly special colours, and an order for H. H. Spanish-Stripes has been booked at £0.64 for Scarlet and Gentian. At Auction the tendency has been slightly easier for most things, but with the exception of CAMLETS the decline is unimportant.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—From Messrs. Alex. Biefeld & Co.'s Report of 16th July.—The past week has been an exceptionally good one, there appears to have been almost a revival of the state of trade which existed early last year. There are many reasons for this condition and the only cause for surprise is that it has not come before. Perhaps the largest factor is the exchange, which now stands at 2s. 8½d. week, while the lowest touched before this has been 2s. 8½d., and the feeling seems to be that the bottom has been reached. This has also led to a great many of the contracts being made in silver, as the dealers think that there is no possibility of their having to pay any more, and that they might benefit by the rise. Another factor, which we have been constantly keeping in mind, is the fact that stocks are now getting lower, and it would have been impossible to have waited much longer before placing new orders. These two causes have undoubtedly been the main factors, aided by the better reports from the up-river and northern markets.

SUNDRIES.—There has been only the usual peddling trade in these lines for the past week, and though many of the dealers profess to see a great improvement in the near future, there is nothing as yet to show the cause of their expectations. There should be a revival for the same reasons that have led to the improvement of the Metal Trade.

Freight.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 16th inst.

Continued dullness and "nothing doing" seems to be the general verdict among shippers, and consequently steamers are receiving very indifferent support homewards, although the market has been kept well supplied with tonnage during the past fortnight. Coast rates have likewise declined, but this is due to the usual slackness at this time of year.

For London via Suez.—This direction seems almost lifeless, judging from the amount of cargo going forward; steamers have called here regularly as advertised, but no support of any consequence seems forthcoming. The following steamers are now loading or shortly ready to load:—

Canton	to sail 17th instant.
Orestes	" 23rd "
Chingco	" 24th "
Glengarry	quick despatch.
Malacca	" "
Benlary	" "

For New York via Suez.—The *Argyll* left on the 11th instant with about 1,100 tons Tea and General Cargo, and the *Glenesk* cleared in the 12th via Foochow where she expects some support; she took from this 4/500 tons. At the moment there is no ship on the berth, the nearest to load being the *Ghazee* and *Strathalan* due towards the end of this month. The *Benalder* will load here about first week in August at current rates, the *Fortuna* being also due about that time.

For New York via Cape.—For a sailer in Hongkong 17/-, and in Japan 16/- is asked for a through rate, but prospects of any vessel being fixed to load here are very remote.

DEPARTURES.

For London via Suez.—	<i>Hector</i> s.s.,	2nd inst.
	<i>Radnorshire</i> s.s.,	7th "
	<i>Peking</i> s.s.,	8th " via Foochow.
	<i>Myrmidon</i> s.s.,	10th "
	<i>Benvenue</i> s.s.,	14th " via Foochow.
For New York via Suez.—	<i>Argyll</i> s.s.,	11th " via Foochow.
	<i>Glenesk</i> s.s.,	12th " via Foochow.

RATES OF FREIGHT.

LONDON	by Conference Lines, General Cargo	35/0	W. Silk	37/6	Tea	40/0
NORTHERN CONT. PORTS	" " " "	35/0	"	37/6	"	40/0
NEW YORK via LONDON	" " " "	42/6	"	45/0	"	47/6
BALTIMORE via LONDON	" " " "	47/6	"	50/0	"	52/6
KONIGSBERG via LONDON	" " " "	42/6	"	45/0	"	47/6
MANCHESTER	" " " "	47/6	"	50/0	"	52/6
LIVERPOOL	" " " "	42/6	"	45/0	"	47/6
HAMBURG	" " " "	35/0	"	37/6	"	40/0

Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference Circular.

HAYRE	by Conference Lines, Tallow	32/6 nett	General Cargo	32/6 nett	W. Silk	35/0 nett	Tea	37/6 nett.
GENOA	" " " "	32/6	" " "	32/6	"	35/0	"	37/6
MARSEILLES	" " " "	32/6	" " "	32/6	"	35/0	"	37/6

42/6 per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports.

Coal—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 16th inst.

COAL.—JAPAN.—During the last two weeks there has been a very large business done owing to advices from Japan that a fresh demand had sprung up there, and coals of all kinds were being rapidly contracted for at greatly enhanced prices; the market here has also considerably strengthened, notwithstanding the fall in rates of freight, Karatsu (Yoshonotani) having been placed as high as Tls. 6.25 per ton, while for the more common kinds Tls. 5.70 per ton has been paid with a further enquiry.

CARDIFF.—Is not in demand, prices asked being prohibitive.

AUSTRALIAN WOLLONGONG.—A small demand suddenly set in, with the result that a cargo was placed at Tls. 9.00, which seems to have satisfied the natives for the present, second hand sales are still very small.

Quotations.—The undernoted figures are based on the most recent settlements for cargoes to arrive and do not represent the present market rates for coals in stock, which fluctuate with the supply and demand:—

Cardiff, ex godown	Tls. 13.00 per ton.
American Anthracite, ex godown	9.00 " nominal.
Sydney Wollongong, steamer cargo ex godown	9.00 " nominal.
Japan, Takasima Lump, ex godown	5.75 " none for sale.
" Small	4.50 " none for sale.
Namazuta Lump, "	5.00 " none for sale.
" Dust	4.00 " none for sale.
Miike Lump, "	5.75 " none for sale.
" Small, ex godown	4.00 " none for sale.
Hayama, ex godown	Tls. 6.25 per ton, firm with an upward tendency.
Meniji, ex godown	
Ohnoura, ex godown	
Kanada "	
Akaika "	

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—

July 1, <i>Velox</i> , str.	879 tons	Fukumo Coal, to native dealers.
" 2, <i>Kueilee</i> , str.	380 "	Hankow Coal, to consumers.
" 3, <i>Yungping</i> , str.	900 "	Kaiping Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 3, <i>Dagmar</i> , str.	1,900 "	Kaiping Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 3, <i>Prosper</i> , str.	1,703 "	Miike Coal, to consumers.
" 5, <i>Kueilin</i> , str.	2,100 "	Kirigomi Coal, to consumers.
" 5, <i>Lucia</i>	1,000 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 5, <i>Taiyo Maru</i> , str.	1,150 "	Moji Coal, to consumers.
" 6, <i>Pechili</i> , str.	581 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 6, <i>Osaka</i>	800 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 7, <i>Hermann</i> , str.	1,430 "	Karatsu Coal, to native dealers.
" 7, <i>Kaifong</i> , str.	1,740 "	Kirigomi Coal, to consumers.
" 8, <i>Sadokuni Maru</i> , str.	1,309 "	Miike Coal, to consumers.
" 9, <i>Progress</i> , str.	1,057 "	Fukumo Coal, to native dealers.
" 10, <i>Ariel</i> , str.	2,000 "	Linsi Mixed Coal, to consumers.
" 10, <i>Nierstein</i> , str.	945 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 13, <i>Fuping</i> , str.	1,100 "	Kaiping Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 13, <i>Oslo</i> , str.	680 "	Namazuta Lump Coal, to native dealers.
" 13, <i>Oslo</i> , str.	720 "	Namazuta Dust Coal, to native dealers.

KEROSENE OIL.—AMERICAN.—For cargo on the spot very little has been done, but a large business in cargo to arrive has transpired at Tls. 1.57½ to Tls. 1.60 per case, the former being present quotation. Stocks in godowns 320,000 cases.

Arrivals:—s.s. <i>Lennox</i> , 4th inst.	30,000 cases.
s.v. <i>Falls of Clyde</i> , 5th "	69,000 "
s.v. <i>Josephus</i> , 12th "	52,500 "
s.v. <i>Helen Brewer</i> , 12th "	62,000 "
s.v. <i>Paul Reverse</i> , 14th "	62,000 "

BATUM.—Quotations have not altered, a small business still being done at Tls. 1.45 per case for Horse Chop. For cargo to arrive the market is weak, and we should not be surprised to see little easier prices.

Arrivals:—s.s. <i>Riversdale</i> , 14th inst.	110,000 cases.
s.s. <i>Elaz</i> , 14th "	the equivalent of 120,000 " in bulk.

Stocks of all Russian kinds 340,000 cases.

LANGKAT.—The only business done has been for cargo to arrive at Tls. 1.40 per case. Stocks 75,000 cases.

Quotations—Devco's	Tls. 1.56 per case.
Batoum, Anchor Chop	1.50
" Horse Chop	1.45
" Bulk Oil	1.40 per two tins.
Langkat	1.35
"	1.40 per case.

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 7½d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight, 2s. 7½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 8½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 8½d.; Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2s. 8½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 8½d. On France—Bank Bills, Transfer Pcs. 3.32. Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 3.36½, 6 months' sight, 3.37½. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks 2.74½, lowest 2.74½, highest 2.76½. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per \$100 G.\$66, lowest 65½, highest 66½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, £74½, lowest 73½, highest 74½ per \$100; Private Bills, 3 days' sight, £73½, lowest 73½, highest 73½. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, £74½, lowest 74½, highest 74½ per \$100. Private Bills 15 days' sight, £74½, lowest 74½, highest 74½. On Bombay and Calcutta Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 209, lowest 209, highest 213½ per £100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 209½, lowest 209, highest 214. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, £366.00, lowest 359.50, highest 366.00. Silver Bars, £111.15, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, £73.90, lowest 73.8, highest 74.0. Caroin dollars, £94.00, lowest 94.00, highest 96.00. Copper Cash 1.250, lowest 1.250, highest 1.260. Chinese Interest, mace 1.4, lowest 1.0, highest 2.50. Bar Silver in London, per oz. 27½/8, lowest 27½/8, highest 27½/8.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morriss, Fergusson & Robertson's Circular.)

Bar Silver £ oz in 1 don.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GERMANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG KONG.	YOKOHAMA.	INDIA.
	T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rup.
July.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
10th.....	27½/8	2.8	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	3.38½/39½	3.39/3.40	2.76½	66½	73½	74½	212½
12th.....	27½/8	2.8	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	3.38½/39½	3.39/3.40	2.76½	66½	73½	74½	213½
13th.....	27½/8	2.7½	2.8	2.8	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	3.37½/38½	3.39/3.40	2.76	66½	73½	74½	212
14th.....	27½/8	2.7½	2.7½	2.7½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	3.36½/37½	3.38/3.39	2.75	66	74½	74½	211/210
15th.....	27½/8	2.7½	2.7½	2.7½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	3.36½/37½	3.36½/37½	2.74½	65½	74½	74½	219
16th.....	27½/8	2.7½	2.7½	2.7½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	3.36½/37½	3.36½/37½	2.74½	66	74½	74½	209½

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 16th July:—

The market has been fairly active during the week, and prices have generally well maintained, with improvement in some cases.

BANKS.—*Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—Cash shares have changed hands at 192½ per cent. premium, and a sale was reported at 193 for the 31st current. The market is quiet, with a disposition to sell. The Hongkong quotation is 188 per cent. premium. We received telegraphic advices last night that the net profits, for the past half year, amount to \$1,825,000, a dividend of £15.0 will be paid, \$500,000 will be placed to Reserve, and \$300,000 will be carried forward. This confirms the rumour mentioned by us on the 2nd instant. *National Bank* shares have changed hands in Hongkong at \$23½.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Business has been confined to *North-Chinas* which were placed at £190, and *Yangtszes* which were sold at \$159 cash, and \$160 for delivery on the 31st current.

FIRE INSURANCE.—*Chinas* have been placed to Hongkong at \$106½ cash, and \$107 for delivery on the 30th September. There is no business reported in *Hongkongs*.

SHIPPING.—*Indo-China Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.*—The report and accounts for 1896 were presented and passed at the meeting of shareholders held in London on the 17th June. The net earnings of the steamers amount to £28,956.6.1, equal to 5.84 per cent. on the paid up capital, as against 16.34 per cent. in 1895 and 18.48 per cent. in 1894. The Revenue account, including a balance of £6,064.13.7 from the previous year, £15.5.0 for transfer fees, and £16,318.17.3 from the Underwriting account, and deducting £5,508.7.1 for General charges, £4,207.18.7 for Interest and £40,260.0.0 for Depreciation, shows a credit balance of £1,380.16.3 which is transferred to the Balance Sheet, and is too small to allow of the payment of a dividend. Shares have been changing hands at £37 cash, £37/38 for the 31st current, £38½ for October, and £39 for December. Cash shares were also sold to Hongkong at \$51, which is equal to £37.50, and this we quote as the closing rate. There are sellers of *Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat* shares in the South at \$35, and of *Douglas Steamship* shares at \$67.

SUGAR COMPANIES.—*Perak Sugar Cultivation* shares are wanted at £35, but are held for £38. *China Sugar Refining* shares were sold for cash at \$147, and were purchased locally at \$151 for August delivery, and from Hongkong at \$149 for the same date.

MINING.—*Olivers Freehold Mines B* shares were sold to Hongkong at \$6.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—*Boyd & Co.* shares were placed at £210, *Shanghai Engineering and Dock* shares at £107, and *Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf* shares at £122½.

LANDS.—*Shanghai Land Investment* shares have been sold at £87½ cum and £85½ ex the dividend of 4½ per cent. payable on the 19th current. A few more shares are offering on the same terms, ex dividend. *Hongkong Land* shares are offering there at \$77.

INDUSTRIAL.—*Ewo Cotton* shares were placed for cash at £115 locally and at £116 to Hongkong, and a sale for August delivery is reported at £117½. *Internationals* changed hands at £121½, *Laon-Kung-Mows* at £120 cash and £121 for the 31st current, *Shanghai Ice* shares at £125, *Shanghai Rice Mill* shares at £30, *China Flour Mill* shares at £52½ and £53, and *American Cigarette* shares at £80 and £82½.

TUGS & CARGO BOATS.—Business is reported in *Taku Tug and Lighter* shares at T. £121 cum and T. £115 ex dividend.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Shanghai Waterworks* shares changed hands at £310, cum the dividend of 15 shillings per share declared payable on the 26th at exchange 2/8. *Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco* shares have been sold for cash at £105 to £102, for August at £108, for October at £111/10, and for December at £112½. *Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco* shares have been recovering, and cash sales were made at £475 to £510, for July at £500, for August at £525, for October at £535/545, and for December at £530, £560 and £580.

LOANS.—*Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf* 6 per cent. Debentures were placed at £105, *Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Company's* 10 per cent. Debentures at £100, and *Shanghai-Sumatra Company's* 8 per cent. Debentures at £105, plus the accrued interest in all cases.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on Div. allowing for Amortization.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1888	£70,000.00	£70,000.00	£100	6%	Dec. & June.	(g) 4.90%	... (a) nominal.
Do. 1890	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	6%	Do.	...	...
Do. 1891	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	5½%	Do.	(g) 5.40%	...
Do. 1892	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£100	5%	Do.	...	£101.00
Do. 1893	£125,000.00	£125,000.00	£100	5½%	Do.	(g) 5.40%	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1894	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	£100	6%	Do.	(g) 5.12%	... (a) £101.00
Do. 1895	£115,000.00	£115,000.00	£100	5%	Do.	(g) 5.00%	... (a) £110.00
Do. 1896	£120,000.00	£120,000.00	£100	5%	Do.	(g) 4.92%	... (a) £101.00
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.....	£17,000.00	£17,000.00	£25	4%	24 July 1895	...	£15.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E	£767,200.00	£680,104.00	£250	7%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 6.05%	... (a) £275.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures 1890	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6%	May & Nov.	(g) 5.46%	... (a) £100.00
Do. Do. 1892	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5½%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.30%	... (a) £101.00
Do. Do. 1894	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.55%	... (a) £100.00
Do. Do. 1896	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5%	June & Dec.	(g) 4.92%	... (a) £100.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures '94]	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 4.65%	... (a) £112.50
Do. '96]	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.37%	... (a) £100.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. "	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.37%	... (a) £105.00

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 15th July, 1897, comprised the following Goods:—

	For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.		For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.
Grey Shirtings	17,590 pcs.	18,835 pcs.	14,102 pcs.	Velvets	144 pcs.	144 pcs.	222 pcs.
White Shirtings	6,620 "	5,800 "	7,350 "	Velveteens	.....	.....	.....
T-Cloths	1,701 "	1,426 "	2,080 "	Cotton Yarn	.....	.....	.....
Drills, English	150 "	75 "	.....	Camlets	1,100 pcs.	580 "	600 pcs.
Jeans	120 "	120 "	120 "	Long Ells	390 "	420 "	860 "
Sheetings	680 "	660 "	620 "	Lastings	680 "	400 "	200 "
Turkey Reds	891 "	584 "	930 "	Spanish Stripes	462 "	587 "	810 "

At Nie-kee, 10th inst.—

Black Velvets.—144 pieces: 18-in. Lion & Flag £0.12.4, do. 22-in. £0.17.1, Snowfall 26-in. £0.17.4.

Turkey Reds.—891 pieces; Shepherd 2½-lbs. £1.16, Lion and Flag 3½-lbs. £1.45, Double Man 4-lbs. £2.00, Single Peacock 2½-lbs. £1.21, Blue 3 Peacocks 3½-lbs. £1.71, Manface and Peacock 3½-lbs. £1.50, do. 4-lbs. £1.99½, 3 Joss, 3½-lbs. £1.96, do. 4-lbs. £2.12, House 4½-lbs. £2.13, do. 5½-lbs. £2.34½, Bear 3½-lbs. £1.63, do. 3½-lbs. £1.76, do. 4-lbs. £1.98½, and do. 5-lbs. £2.37.

At E-wo, 14th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—2,100 pieces; Red Crab £1.93½/94, Blue do. £2.03½, Red Bell £2.06½, Blue do. £2.19½, Blue Dragon and Shield £2.09, do. and Spur £2.19½, Blue Tea Caddy DDD £2.29, Blue Dragon E-wo £2.20½, and Blue 2 Tea Caddy £2.51½.

10-lbs.—1,650 pieces; Black Tea Caddy £2.31, Red Crab £2.47½, Blue do. £2.56, Red Dragon and 7 Boys £2.43½, Red Dragon and Shield £2.45½, do. and 5 Man £2.46½, Green do. £2.53, Blue Tea Caddy DDD £2.75½/75½, and Blue 2 Tea Caddy £2.80.

11-lbs.—100 pieces; Blue Dragon and 7 Boys £2.75½.

12-lbs.—1,380 pieces; Ladder and Gun £2.83½, Bear £2.99½, Man and Gun £3.05, Fisher Boat £3.19½.

White Irishes.—150 pieces; Blue 9 Bats £3.43½.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—1,045 pieces; Man and Gong £1.36½, Blue Dragon and Shield £1.71½/71½, do. and Crown £1.78.

Do. 8-lbs.—66 pieces; Blue Dragon and Shield £1.88.

Sheetings.—English—14-lbs.—200 pieces; Bull's Head £2.74½/75.

Drills.—English.—14-lbs.—150 pieces; Bat and Deer £2.85½.

At Yuen-foong, 15th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—1,000 pieces; Lotus £0.80½/81.

7-lbs.—1,875 pieces; Blue Britannia £1.64/64½, Blue 4 Sister £1.71½, Blue 3 Student £1.90½/92½.

8.4-lbs.—4,235 pieces; House £1.75½/76½, Double Man £1.75½/75½, Blue Britannia £1.87½, Blue 4 Sisters £2.03½, Blue Double Shield £2.05/05½, Black Gold 3 Students £2.12½/12½, Red 3 Students £2.10/10½, Red Empress Birthday £2.13½, 7 Sisters £2.18½, 5 Brothers £2.21½, and 300 pieces 8½-lbs. 18 Brothers £2.40/40½.

10-lbs.—2,250 pieces; Red Britannia £2.47, Red 3 Students £2.47½/48½, Red Emperor's Birthday £2.54/54½, Red 4 Sister £2.57½/57½, Painted 3 Literati £2.81.

10.12-lbs.—700 pieces; Gold Britannia £2.78½/79, Lily £3.10½.

11-lbs.—750 pieces; Painted 3 Students £2.83½.

12-lbs.—1,200 pieces; China Square £2.77/77½, Nine Lions £2.92½/93, Soldier £2.91½, Lily £3.21½/21½, and Squirrel, 14-lbs. £3.09½.

White Shirtings.—64-reed.—1,950 pieces; House Bright £2.02½/02½, do. Dull £2.00½/01, Blue 2 Lighthouse Bright £2.06½, do. Dull £2.03½/03½.

72-reed.—4,520 pieces; White Gold 3 Students £2.47½/47½, Red 2 Light House Bright £2.59/50½, do. Dull £2.50, Red Gold Star Bright £2.80/80½, do. Dull £2.71½/71½, Red 5 Star Bright £3.06, Painted 4 Sisters Bright £2.71½/78 do. Dull £2.84½/85½, Black Flag Chief £3.12½/12½, Painted Grand Father £3.36½/36½, Lily £3.50, and Students £3.66.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—390 pieces; Blue 3 Students £1.36, Red Double Shield £1.62½, Red 3 Students £1.66½.

8-lbs.—200 pieces; Painted 3 Students £2.22½.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—120 pieces; Double Squirrel £2.47½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—480 pieces; Lion on Cloud £2.84, Nine Lion £2.88, Old Man Hand B. £2.87½, do A. £2.94½/96½.

Cotton Italians.—660 pieces; Lily £6.00, Students £3.45/47½, Painted 2 Sister £3.95, Painted 9 Lion £3.85, Black Flag Chief £3.37½ and Grand Father £3.30.

AUCTION SALES OF WOOLLENS DURING THE WEEK.

Chops—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Dk. G'tian.	Gr. & N. Green.*	Orange & Yellow.*	Ash & Lav.*	White	Purple	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt. Mid.,	Sales Pcs.
	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.
Camlets.												
Lighthouse, s.s.g. p.p.	13.67½/75	13.85	13.97½	...	13.80	13.00	...	...	13.37½/30	...	...	150
Sales, pcs.	80	10	10	...	10	2*	...	...	20	...	...	
9 Old Man, s.s.h. p.p.	13.27½/35	13.20/22½	13.20/25	...	13.60/62½	12.87½	...	...	13.15/22½	...	13.45/50	590
Sales, pcs.	230	120	120	...	30	10*	...	...	20	...	30*	
Black Flag Chief, p.pcs.	9.32½	8.15/20	8.60	8.52½	8.52½	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, pcs.	40	20	20	10*	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goose, p.p.	13.63/64	...	13.58	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.57	...	80
Sales, pcs.	50	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	
Man & Horse, p.pcs.	13.61/62	...	13.56	...	13.59/60	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Sales, pcs.	60	...	30	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Horse & Lion, p.pcs.	11.72/12.00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Sales, pcs.	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Bear, p.pcs.	...	...	12.35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sales, pcs.	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Long Ells.												
Black Flag Chief, p.pcs.	5.75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, pcs.	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Tiger & Ring, p.pcs.	6.68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, pcs.	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Horse Head, H.D.B.p.p.	6.65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Sales, pcs.	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Double Phoenix, p.pcs.	6.54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Sales, pcs.	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Tiger, c.p.h., p.pcs.	5.35/37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Sales, pcs.	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

Chops—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Dark Gentian	Gr. & N. Green.	Orange & Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White Purple	Black.	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt. Mid.	Sales Pcs.
	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.
Lastings.												
Black Flag Chief, p. pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.00/02½	...	...	...	100
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	...	...
Ship, C.G.R., p. pc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.5½/02½	...	...	...	300
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	...	...	...
Old Man, F.F.R., p. pc.	...	...	10.97½	...	...	...	...	9.90/92½	...	...	...	100
Sales, pcs.	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	80	...	...	...	...
J. M., No. 1, p. pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.35	...	...	...	100
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	...	...
Tiger, C.P.H., p. pc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.37	...	...	...	40
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...
Goose, p. pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.10	...	...	...	40
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes.												
Old Man, A.A.B., p. yd.	0.50	0.53½	0.50½	0.54½	0.51½	...	0.48	...	...	...	...	60
Sales, pcs.	24	6	12	6*	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Single Phoenix, p. yd.	0.52.3/52½	0.53.7	0.52.4/52.6	...	...	0.53	...	...	...	0.51.4	...	180
Sales, pcs.	60	6	96	...	...	12*	...	...	...	6	...	...
Sea Horse, B.T.I., p. yd.	0.51.3/51.6	...	0.51.1/51½	...	...	0.50.2	...	...	...	...	0.50.3	120
Sales, pcs.	78	...	24	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	12*	...
Buffalo, p. yd.	0.48/48.1	...	0.48.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Sales, pcs.	24	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goose, p. yd.	0.47.8/48	...	...	0.45.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.45	36
Sales, pcs.	24	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	6*	...
Mandarin, p. yd.	...	...	0.51.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sales, pcs.	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dragon, p. yd.	0.48.6	...	0.49.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.44.9	30
Sales, pcs.	18	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6*	...

STOCKS OF IMPORTS in Foreign Godowns and at the Public Wharves on 31st ultimo, as published by THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE on 13th instant.

		Against last year on same date.				Against last year on same date.	
Grey Shirtings	per.	1,439,121	1,576,891	Velveteens	per.	12,246	4,194
T-Cloths, 32-inch, Eng.	..	322,645	248,065	Handkerchiefs	doz.	370,624	193,989
" Indian 32-inch and 36-inch	..	85,749	94,103	Muslins	per.	109,747	94,241
" 36-inch, Eng.	..	45,936	92,560	Lenos, &c.	..	15,697	17,442
White Shirtings, and Irishes	..	559,449	421,482	Cotton Yarn, Indian	pls.	36,513	97,719
Drills, English, Dutch and Indian	..	101,989	179,430	" English	..	4,266	5,608
" American	..	427,195	137,235	" Japanese	..	6,971	915
Jeans, English and Dutch	..	58,280	66,273	Spanish Stripes, Woollen	per.	11,478	13,180
" American	..	8,740	1,800	" Cotton	..	22,372	8,348
Sheetings, English, & Dutch	..	140,949	125,940	Medium, Russian and Broad Cloths	..	15,253	11,031
" American	..	1,046,685	220,545	Camlets,	..	17,100	16,400
" Indian	..	11,842	63,375	Long Ells, Woollen	..	66,900	69,060
Dyed Shirtings	..	61,456	13,047	Lastings	..	46,769	21,072
Brecaides, White	..	2,308	4,055	Italian Cloth	..	72,169	22,183
" Dyed	..	21,893	11,469	Cotton Lastings & Italiane	..	537,481	209,271
Chintz	..	29,159	12,612	Lustres, Plain	..	410	.....
Printed T-Cloths	..	404,540	190,126	" Figured	..	4,945	1,660
Printed Twills	..	145,248	57,401	Cotton Flannel, Am. English and Dutch	..	67,657	24,920
Turkey Red Shirtings and T-Cloths, etc.	..	115,415	180,189	Lead in pigs	pls.	10,297	21,989
Veivets	..	18,960	14,273	Nail Rod Iron	..	58,350	105,763

Analysis of—

Grey Shirtings—	
6-lbs., and under	per. 15,000
7-lbs.	9,315
8-lbs. to 8½-lbs.	462,703
9½-lbs. to 10-lbs. and over	527,262
12-lbs. 36-inch, 40 yards	387,271
Unclassed	6,850
Dutch	30,720
	1,439,121

T-Cloths—English 31/32 in 24 yards—	
6-lbs., and under	71,915
6½-lbs. to 7-lbs. and over	250,730
	322,645

Indian—do.—	
6-lbs., and under	83,739
7-lbs., and over	110
8-lbs. and over	1,900
Unclassed	...
	85,749

White Shirtings—	
52/64-reel	77,642
72/76-reel	154,075
80-reel and over	225,486
Unclassed	19,463
	476,666

White Irishes	82,783
	559,449

Analysis of—

Drills—	
English	39,645
Dutch	26,995
Indian	30,615
Unclassed	4,734
	101,989

Jeans—	
English	31,980
Dutch	26,300
	58,280

Sheetings—	
English	136,869
Dutch	4,080
	140,949

Velvets—	
22-in.	18,570
Embossed	390
	18,960

Muslins and Lawns—	
White	87,279
Printed	22,468
	109,747

Medium and Broad Cloth	8,803
Russian Cloth (including Imitation)	6,450
	15,253

Lastings—Worsted and Union—	
Plain	34,462
Figured	12,307
	46,769

Cotton Flannels—	
English	967
American	61,020
Dutch	5,670
	67,657

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 14th July, 1897, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," No. 154 to 159, both numbers inclusive.

Goods.	RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.														
	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kinkiang.	Hankow.	Johang & Chankiang.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Corea.	Vladivostok.
Grey Shirtings +	13,443	...	28,508	5,385	3,700	26,674	...	4,921	11,100	3,930	620	...	...	4,400	101
T-Cloths, 32-in.	1,320	...	4,385	450	360	1,761	...	550	2,226	...	1355	...	...	...	15,000
" 36-in.	673	...	...	...	240	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,700
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	350	...	...	...	...	1,000
White Shirtings	1,620	...	3,127	1,090	1,750	14,856	...	1,057	4,851	650	240	1601	360	50	900
Drills, English & Dutch.	180	...	1,200	180	585	990	...	...	3,360	275	60	...	...	197	6,500
" American	2,565	...	3,180	270	1,125	5,175	...	975	6,525	28,770	...	...	...	...	600
Jeans, English & Dutch.	470	...	40	...	430	1,060	...	...	1,990	...	...	...	...	...	450
" American	180	...	100	...	60	60	...	100	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	300
Sheetings, English	160	...	3,960	3,520	1,820	3,020	...	300	...	120	...	...	...	...	700
" Indian	100	...	...	20	...	...	...	200	...	1,330	...	...	...	...	300
" American	680	...	835	...	200	40	...	3,360	14,500	28,825	...	...	...	...	700
Dyed Shirtings	...	...	1,275	1,053	...	200	295	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Bro. & Sp. Shirts, D. & W.	...	...	...	...	...	788	...	38	...	...	...	...	...	40	300
Chintzes	60	...	350	60	60	885	...	...	220	...	50	...	...	...	400
Printed T-Cloths	360	...	3,123	350	240	2,670	...	240	1,849	360	60	...	...	...	1,000
Printed Twills	260	...	230	200	360	470	...	...	60	...	160	...	...	...	450
Turkey Red Shirtings	75	...	670	215	280	685	...	300	620	80	130	...	...	100	300
Velvets	114	...	30	30	168	360	...	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Velvetens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Handkerchiefs	...	...	400	...	670	1,100	400	...	...	400	...	...	...	...	5,000
Muslins	100	...	200	100	...	400	...	...	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	800
Lenes & Balzarines	...	...	...	...	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	600
Cotton Yarn, Indian	114	...	1,190	42	495	2,958	810	213	723	690	...	...	...	...	510
" English	6	...	49	36	45	267	...	...	18	6	...	...	...	12	120
" Japan	69	...	84	15	99	1,387	...	303	467	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	24	...	72	72	362	252	...	...	72	...	12	...	...	...	120
" Cotton	...	...	120	48	48	72	...	...	96	...	...	...	...	...	90
Medium & Broad Cloths	...	...	12	24	132	244	...	18	10	...	...	...	...	...	120
Camlets	30	...	20	20	250	700	...	...	20	...	10	...	...	...	260
Long Ells	30	...	110	130	690	955	...	...	110	20	...	...	...	...	260
Lastings	60	...	100	20	180	800	...	...	130	60	...	...	...	...	300
Italian Cloth	28	...	30	120	...	270	...	30	...	...	...	60	...	...	320
Cotton Lastings & Italians	731	...	2,227	560	530	5,105	...	280	1,462	490	...	...	...	160	1,100
Plain & Figured Orleans	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400
Cotton Flannels	240	...	120	120	440	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Japan	...	...	...	...	160	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead-in Pigs	146	...	44	...	14	...	...	...	190	...	345	...	...	...	...
Iron-Nail Rod	230	...	462	151	42	231	...	...	210	966	8	...	...	...	...
Kerosine Oil, American Case	2,300	...	4,770	1,200	4,135	16,080	...	24,000	...	3,000	...	...	...	...	...
" Russian	1,900	...	1,000	...	...	18,200	...	...	29,000	...	...	...	...	...	...

TOTAL DELIVERIES.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 30th June, 1897.

Goods.	As above.				Against last year to same term.				At date Estimated.			
	June entries.	July entries.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	June entries.	July entries.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	At date Estimated.	Against 15th July, 1896.		
Grey Shirtings	69,320	48,724	3,541,462	3,226,047	176	77,211	2,824,620	3,202,163	1,467,608	1,517,851		
T-Cloths, 32-in.	9,881	5,226	595,901	595,704	...	1,190	455,442	539,494	318,609	235,190		
" 36-in.	555	1,508	58,509	75,610	...	2,255	62,244	118,886	46,683	90,113		
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	350	1,160	175,501	170,276	...	...	222,620	113,295	84,649	87,553		
White Shirtings	21,153	16,949	1,109,309	1,048,276	...	23,940	1,022,057	1,131,867	566,440	398,258		
Drills, Eng. & Dutch	5,520	2,117	152,061	127,090	...	2,760	80,647	182,752	102,632	172,425		
" American	28,045	20,700	519,648	353,565	14,250	...	582,636	491,535	406,495	109,595		
Jeans, Eng. & Dutch	2,830	1,469	103,621	72,279	8,690	2,870	91,391	99,877	59,690	65,193		
" American	1,240	1,500	32,975	20,625	...	...	29,000	19,500	7,190	1,600		
Sheetings, English	9,570	4,030	481,372	495,386	183	1,679	322,635	637,707	138,598	116,750		
" Indian	...	1,650	75,820	61,395	...	...	13,320	98,077	10,192	62,240		
" American	26,390	22,750	1,226,552	765,935	40,540	105,925	1,473,758	774,785	1,129,860	172,250		
Dyed Shirtings	1,780	1,285	119,735	82,763	1,645	90	100,426	57,116	60,261	10,857		
Bro. & Spot Shirts, D. & W.	788	378	26,972	23,575	20	...	24,235	29,768	23,823	15,044		
Chintzes	765	1,320	123,543	113,804	3,998	4,272	165,886	134,137	32,111	10,522		
Printed T-Cloths	6,572	3,680	389,880	400,149	...	9,874	363,777	450,198	410,734	185,047		
Printed Twills	1,210	980	72,010	93,415	600	...	93,119	136,210	144,388	56,421		
Turkey Red Shirtings	2,230	1,310	144,060	131,027	1,200	1,622	82,510	215,995	115,727	178,814		
Velvets	558	266	11,815	14,921	...	...	19,927	22,069	18,694	13,989		
Velvetens	...	90	6,365	8,877	...	...	7,925	9,558	12,156	4,176		
Handkerchiefs	2,050	5,920	282,228	297,190	30	916	199,019	516,446	365,620	194,392		
Muslins	1,000	2,400	140,169	139,825	...	...	145,452	291,791	107,347	94,841		
Lenes & Balzarines	80	840	47,574	26,456	...	...	38,524	33,679	14,857	16,842		
Cotton Yarn, Indian	6,785	960	374,491	405,728	90	33	289,912	446,846	55,586	93,155		
" English	223	336	16,933	13,442	...	171	14,407	10,985	42,501	5,329		
" Japan	2,032	407	73,157	15,756	4,906	...	88,536	42,463	6,564	757		
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	748	318	17,886	17,546	180	...	17,317	26,324	11,160	12,820		
" Cotton	192	282	23,034	18,492	...	240	25,724	20,947	22,320	7,934		
Med. & Broad Cloths	340	222	11,076	10,149	...	...	15,483	16,897	15,031	10,809		
Camlets	780	530	24,127	2,325	500	100	23,196	21,233	16,670	16,730		
Long Ells	1,595	710	30,554	27,970	...	100	26,056	46,210	66,290	68,225		
Lastings	890	820	38,129	30,402	500	700	50,348	21,717	46,649	20,242		
Italian Cloth	358	500	48,972	41,973	...	154	61,509	75,692	71,823	21,563		
Cotton Lastings & Italians	7,815	4,830	536,857	410,291	...	3,558	768,742	551,341	536,832	205,102		
Plain & Figured Orleans	50	...	560	480	...	...	1,563	500	5,355	1,620		
Cotton Flannels	560	800	10,827	12,198	160	...	5,100	6,352	66,837	24,440		
" Japan	...	160	1,285	4,974	...	...	2,435	570	...	?		
Lead-in Pigs	695	44	4,163	48,851	...	...	58,284	67,202	10,233	48,858		
Iron-Nail Rod	1,086	1,214	75,948	116,782	...	...	39,399	19,530	57,136	102,784		
Kerosine Oil, American Cases	19,770	36,715	1,383,437	859,063	40,000	...	1,430,358	820,650	?	?		
" Russian	22,100	28,000	884,009	572,711	40,000	...	1,250,997	46,612	?	?		

+ Including English and Dutch 12-lbs. * The usual daily returns from the Wharves unobtainable.

* Exclusive of undeclared Import Cargoes per Malacca, Mirzapore, Lennox, Peru, Sachsen Tantalus, Glenturret, Ernest Simons, Ching Wo, Java, Thames, Diomed, Copite, Empress of Japan, Moyune and Priam.

Import Cargoes declared during the interval:—Belgie, Myrmidon and Argyle, additional ex Formosa and in Bond ex Lennox and Glenturret.

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 16th July, 1897.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVD. & C.		Average dividends for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' dividends.	CASH QUOTATION		
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When paid or due.			Closing.	Tls.	
Banks.													
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$6,500,000	\$300,323.93	31-12-96	*£14	15-2-97	\$22.85	6.25	\$365.62	266.91	
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.	107,483	£8	£3	.....	£50,886.16	7-31-12-96	none	.....	.....	.....	£5.00	nom.	
Do. ordinary shares	1,101	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.22	\$23.00	16.70	
Do. deferred do.	40,453	£10	£8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nominal	nom.	
National Bank of China, Ltd.	3,818	£10	£1	\$90,000	\$2,599.92	31-12-96	†\$1.18	1-3-97	\$1.20	.....	\$20.00	14.69	
Do. Co. Founders'	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Insurance (Marine.)													
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$20	\$1,500,000.00 (a) 707,663.3	\$748,585.30	30-6-96	†\$15	9-10-96	\$12.00	5.28	\$227.50	166.07	
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$1,000,000.00 £164,988.46	\$327,348.85	30-4-96	†\$5	28-9-96	\$5.00	6.50	\$77.00	56.21	
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	3,000	£100	£25	\$250,000.00	\$306,887.20	31-12-96	†\$18.18	4-8-97	\$17.06	8.98	.....	190.00	
Yungtze Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	6,948	\$100	\$60	\$450,000.00 £76,783.70	\$344,185.07	31-12-96	†\$12	30-4-97	\$11.00	6.91	\$159.00	116.07	
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,300,000	\$45,015.58	31-12-95	†\$5	9-1-97	\$10.67	5.84	\$182.50	133.22	
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$10,000.00 £100,000.00	\$585,932.16	31-12-96	†\$2	27-3-96	\$1.83	10.17	\$18.00	13.14	
Insurance (Fire.)													
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,021,688	\$304,817.76	31-12-96	†\$22	6-3-97	\$15.02	4.26	\$352.50	257.32	
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$886,850	\$267,164.11	31-12-96	†\$6	1-3-97	\$6.33	5.89	\$107.50	78.47	
Shipping.													
H'kong, Canton & M'ao S.B. Co.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$609,000	\$743.76	31-12-96	*\$8	1-2-97	\$2.03	5.68	\$35.75	26.10	
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	\$50,000.00 £100,000.00	£1,380.16	31-12-96	†\$5.07	2-7-96	\$3.38	9.01	.....	37.50	
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$43,020.86	\$1,605.59	30-6-96	†\$8.00	1-10-96	\$6.33	9.59	\$66.00	48.18	
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	£14,005.45	£1,490.94	31-12-96	†\$3	1-10-96	\$4.11	8.22	.....	50.00	
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	†\$6	12-3-96	\$2.70	.....	.....	nom.	
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5	£122,189.11	.....	.....	†\$6	12-3-96	\$1.85	8.41	.....	22.00	
Sugar Companies.													
Persia Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$123,038.29	31-12-96	†\$2	23-1-96	\$0.67	1.76	.....	38.00	
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$2,221.08	31-12-96	†\$5.50	29-3-97	\$5.83	3.96	\$147.00	107.31	
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$12,766.38	31-12-96	†\$5	27-3-96	\$2.67	5.34	\$50.00	36.50	
Mining.													
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$131,526.34	31-12-96	none	.....	none	.....	.....	2.50	
Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.	59,349	\$4	\$4	.....	.....	.....	(\$0.20)	11-1-97	\$0.07	1.03	\$6.75	4.96	
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	\$1	\$1	.....	\$15,657.81	30-9-96	(\$0.50)	11-1-97	\$0.17	.....	\$1.85	1.35	
Jelesu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	45,000	\$5	\$5	.....	\$68,781.00	9-8-96	*\$5	15-10-94	\$0.48	21.33	\$2.25	1.64	
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	200,000	£1	13/10	none	\$4,269.16	31-3-96	\$0.22	26-5-96	\$0.07	0.23	\$30.00	21.90	
Docks, Wharves and Godowns.													
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	†\$117	29-7-96	\$39.00	.....	.....	nom.	
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Ordinary	7,800	\$100	\$100	£160,000.00	\$37,167.24	30-4-96	†\$15	29-7-96	\$13.00	6.19	.....	210.00	
S. C. Farham & Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	£200,000	\$13,038.03	30-6-96	†\$14	30-9-96	\$12.33	6.67	.....	185.00	
S'hai E. S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	107.00	
Do. Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	400.00	
H'kong & W'pao Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	\$125	\$125	\$600,000	\$104,104.71	31-12-96	*12%	23-2-97	\$23.75	5.53	\$428.75	312.99	
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ltd.	15,100	\$100	\$100	.....	\$20,617.91	31-12-96	†\$4.50	24-3-97	\$6.94	5.72	.....	122.50	
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$10,115.41	31-12-96	†\$1.25	24-2-97	\$2.67	3.95	\$67.50	49.28	
Lands.													
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$70,000.00	\$1,108.92	31-12-96	15%	23-2-97	\$3.92	4.28	.....	87.75	
Do. New	6,000	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	85.50	
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,250,000	\$56,559.49	31-12-96	14%	22-1-97	\$4.00	5.14	\$77.75	56.76	
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ltd.	5,960	\$50	\$30	none	\$266.12	31-12-96	180.80	9-2-97	\$0.77	4.05	\$19.00	13.87	
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	25,400	\$10	\$10	\$25,000.00	\$519.29	31-12-96	180.70	23-2-97	\$0.70	7.77	9.00	6.57	
Industrial.													
Shanghai Gas Co.	3,000	\$100	\$100	\$100,000.00	\$13,854.19	31-12-96	†\$8.50	14-1-97	\$14.66	6.37	.....	230.00	
Major Brothers, Ltd.	5,500	\$50	\$50	.....	\$12,474.07	31-12-96	†\$1.50	9-12-94	.....	.....	.....	42.50	
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	115.00	
International Cotton Man. Co. Ltd.	7,620	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	122.00	
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	120.00	
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$500	\$500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	600.00	
Shanghai Ice Co.	540	\$100	\$100	£6,800.00	.....	31-10-96	†\$9	12-1-97	\$11.00	8.80	.....	125.00	
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$25	\$25	.....	\$775.52	31-12-96	†\$6	24-2-97	.....	.....	.....	30.00	
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	53.00	
American Cigarette Co., Ltd.	1,500	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	82.50	
Tugs and Cargo Boats.													
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$33,000.00	\$818.50	31-12-95	†\$5	15-12-96	\$18.67	8.68	.....	215.00	
Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd.	8,000	†\$50	†\$50	TT. 123,000.00 £ 26,051.10	\$7,935.65	31-12-96	17%	27-2-96	\$7.67	6.67	†\$115.00	.....	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$100	\$100	\$115,425.39	\$1,403.22	31-12-96	18%	2-3-97	\$16.00	8.42	.....	190.00	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$51,152.84	\$1,567.87	31-12-96	19%	3-3-97	\$14.33	8.19	.....	175.00	
Miscellaneous.													
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,200	£20	£20	\$20,000.00	\$8,362.17	31-12-96	†\$8.76	23-3-97	\$12.12	3.90	.....	310.00	
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.	13,000	\$80	\$20	\$5,485.11	\$80,530.33	31-12-95	†\$1.47	31-3-97	\$8.43	8.26	.....	102.00	
Shanghai-Langkai Tob. Co., Ltd.	3,980	\$100	\$100	.....	\$186,229.23	31-12-95	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	510.00	
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	\$50	\$50	\$9,586.26	\$9,751.23	31-12-96	†\$4	24-4-96	\$4.00	5.26	.....	76.00	
J. Liewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$36,293.31	31-12-96	17%	25-5-93	.....	.....	\$75.00	54.75	
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.	6,250	\$20	\$20	\$125,000	\$4,496.49	28-2-97	†\$2.15	4-97	\$3.00	7.23	\$41.50	30.29	
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$125,000	\$12,159.15	31-12-96	15%	22-5-97	\$0.97	7.76	\$12.50	9.12	
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	8,200	£1	£1	.....	£47.03	31-12-95	None	.....	.....	.....	\$9.00	6.57	
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$8	none	\$8,119.23	30-4-96	†\$5	29-6-95	\$0.27	3.37	\$8.00	5.84	
Central Stores, Ltd.	6,000	\$20	\$15	.....	\$87,829.84	28-2-97	None	.....	.....	.....	\$13.00	9.49	

* For half year. † For year. ‡ Interim dividend. § Final dividend for business year. § A deficit. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest. (c) Insurance Fund. (d) Depreciation Fund. (e) Reserve against Exchange and Investment Fluctuations. (f) Bonus. (g) Assuming that they run for the full term. (h) On the 31st December last, there were only £1.10.0 per share paid up, this, with the further calls of £1.10.0 per share since paid, cover the deficit. For all Dollar shares the exchange is fixed at 78.

J. P. BISSET & Co.